

FIRST

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP ISSUE

SHOOT!

18p

26th MAY, 1979

N.IRELAND v ENGLAND
WALES v SCOTLAND
ENGLAND v WALES
SCOTLAND v N.IRELAND
N.IRELAND v WALES

British Championship action . . . Alan Curtis of Wales (left) and Brian Greenhoff of England tussle for the ball.

**STARTS
INSIDE**
**OUR REVIEW
OF SEASON
1978-79**

**Plus previews of the Republic of Ireland's
European Championship game v Bulgaria and friendly v West Germany**

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

FOUR MANAGERS WITH TWO AIMS

SATURDAY sees the start of the British Championship when the four Home countries do battle. This year the managers of the teams have another aim apart from winning the trophy which England presently hold: it is to prepare for the remaining games in their bids to qualify for the Quarter-Finals of the European Championship. So we should see some new faces in the line-ups and experiments in tactics. For this issue we asked players we believe are certain to be involved to preview their country's games.

We also included David O'Leary's look at the Republic of Ireland's European Championship tie with Bulgaria in Sofia, and their friendly versus West Germany in Dublin.

David Gregory

EDITOR

Saturday, May 19th
Northern Ireland v England
Windsor Park, Belfast

Wales v Scotland
Ninian Park, Cardiff

Tuesday, May 22nd
Scotland v Northern Ireland
Hampden Park

Wednesday, May 23rd
England v Wales
Wembley

Friday, May 25th
Northern Ireland v Wales
Windsor Park



'ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS LIMITED'

AFTER losing 4-0 to England at Wembley in February in their Group One European Championship match, Northern Ireland will be seeking revenge when the two countries meet in Belfast in the British Championship. And it's my view that the forthcoming encounter will not result in another clear-cut result for England — it should be a very tough game.

Under Danny Blanchflower, Northern Ireland are a well organised side, one which makes an extra effort to do well against England and is made up of experienced players. For example, there is Pat Jennings, who had an unhappy night at Wembley in February, but who impressed me in Everton's two meetings with Arsenal in the League this season — Pat can be a hard man to beat.

Although I didn't play against Northern Ireland in last year's British Championship, I saw them in action and I rated Sammy McIlroy as a player who can swing a game his way when he is in the mood. Not forgetting Jimmy Nicholl and full-backs Pat Rice and Sammy Nelson.

Rice was out of the Northern Ireland team through injury against Bulgaria but if he is fit for the England match can be expected to give little away at the back. This also applies to Allan Hunter if he turns out.

So I reckon England will be made to go all the way against Northern Ireland, with a narrow 1-0 victory to Ron Greenwood's men at the end of 90 minutes.

One of the problems facing both sides is the fact we are familiar with each other's style — and this limits the element of surprise.

Northern Ireland certainly sur-

prised Bulgaria by their deserved 2-0 win in the European Championship — Chris Nicholl, who got one of the goals, is a man I know as a solid defender, and we shall also have to keep an eye on Gerry Armstrong in the Northern Ireland team — Gerry can be a dangerous player near goal, as he proved by scoring against Bulgaria.

I have happy memories of last season's match against Wales in the British Championship, because it was in this game that I scored my first-ever goal in international football. We won 3-1 in Cardiff, but Wales played very well, and it wasn't an easy 90 minutes, as they fought every inch of the way.

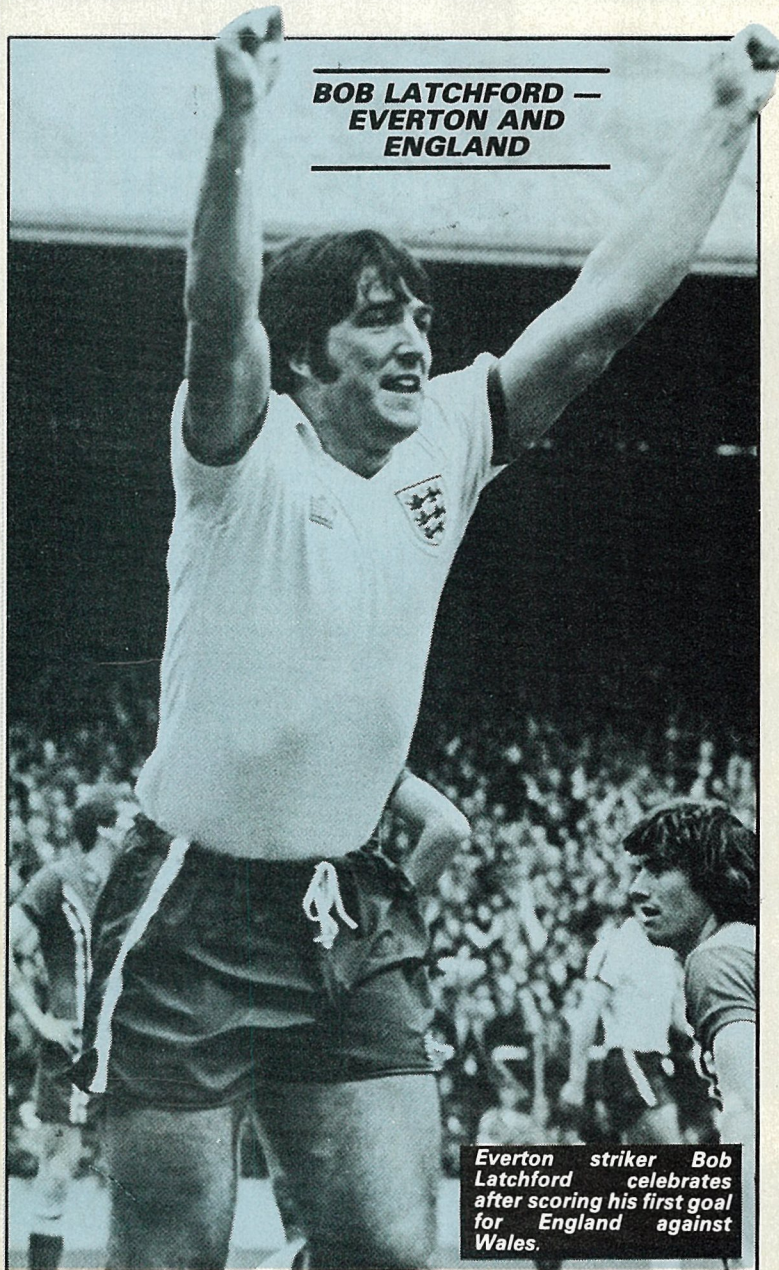
And having experienced just what Welsh spirit can accomplish it would be foolish to underrate Wales when England meet them at Wembley.

The Welsh plan could be to knock England out of their stride, as they attempted to do last year, and these tactics make sense. If England settle down, they can really apply the pressure and put Wales in trouble, so Terry Yorath and Co. will be all out to prevent this happening.

Terry likes to dwell on the ball, and uses it well, and this particularly applies to midfielder man Brian Flynn — he is very clever and can have a big influence on how Wales will play. From last year's match between Wales and England I can also recall the useful contribution made by Phil Dwyer for them.

Against West Germany in the European Championship at Wrexham, Wales met up with a side that was very effective on the night, but that 2-0 set-back is not likely to deter Wales when they take on England. 9

**BOB LATCHFORD —
EVERTON AND
ENGLAND**



Everton striker Bob Latchford celebrates after scoring his first goal for England against Wales.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

'SMALL SQUAD IN OUR FAVOUR'

RESULTS over the past four or five years prove Wales are no longer a country other nations can afford to take lightly in any form of international competition.

And it is quickly forgotten that while England and Scotland failed to make any real headway in the last European Championship, Wales reached the Quarter-Finals.

So I have plenty of realistic ammunition to back my belief we will play a major part in the destination of the British trophy. And not before time.

I suppose a lot of people are making the understandable judgment that I only became a "Welshman" because Mike Smith was the international boss who offered me a cap. But I was also eligible to play for West Germany — I was born at RAF Rostrup — Jamaica, Scotland and England.

My mother is Welsh, and coming

from a family of 13, I have a fair number of aunts and uncles in the Valleys. So imagine their reaction if I'd turned out for West Germany instead of Wales!

I still feel the glow from playing in that European Championship match and the experience, although spoiled a bit by our 0-2 defeat, was still one to cherish. Overnight I discovered the fervour of the Welsh fans. Unlike League crowds who give you a fair bit of stick if you are losing, the Welsh fans got behind us and never let up.

That is one of the reasons why I believe we can do well in the British Championship. Scotland come to Wales on May 19th, and although their fans are famous for their loyalty, I expect the Welsh support to match them for lung-power.

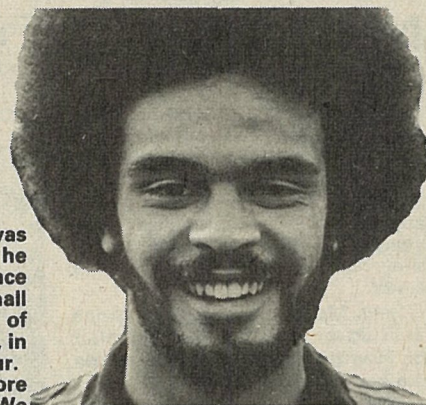
Mike Smith is the key figure in

all Welsh hopes and plans. I was very impressed with the way he quietly spreads confidence through his squad. It is a small squad compared with those of England and Scotland. But that, in my opinion, works in our favour.

I found the Wales squad more like a club than anything else. We went around together, discussed matters as a group rather than different sets of players and you knew, whether you played or not, that you were part of your country's international elite.

I may be new to all this but I know the feeling of confidence and satisfaction when I experience it. And you cannot simply dismiss us from contention for an outright win in the Championship, either on the size of our squad or past results.

Mike Smith is still building the team he wants. He has already



**GEORGE BERRY —
WOLVES AND WALES**

made Welsh soccer very proud again. And with the knowledge that if we beat Malta and Turkey away — two wins the West Germans failed to achieve — we are strong contenders for a place in the European Championship in Italy. We have nothing to fear from trips to Wembley and Windsor Park. 9



George Berry (left) heads over the bar for Wales on his debut against West Germany during a recent European Championship game.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

NORTHERN Ireland haven't had a sniff of the British Championship since they shared it with England in 1964.

But Manchester United star Sammy McIlroy believes they have a great chance of an outright win this season.

Although the Irish had a disappointing Championship last year, collecting only one point, they had to play all three games away.

Says McIlroy: "With two games at Windsor Park this time we must be in with a chance. And as a side we are improving all the time."

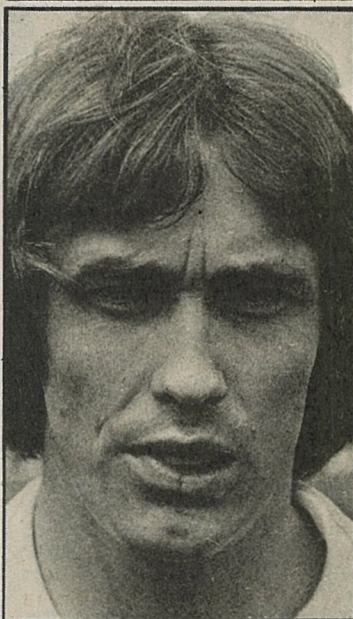
"Our performances in the European Championship have given us a lot of confidence — especially the way we outclassed Bulgaria earlier this month. Our only problem has been getting a few more goals."

"In the British Championship you have got to get off to a good start. If you lose the first game you're virtually out of the running."

"That's why we'll be looking to get something out of our opening match against England — and I think we are capable of beating them."

"I know they won 4-0 at Wem-

SAMMY McILROY — MAN. UNITED AND N. IRELAND



bley in the European Championship but there wasn't really four goals between the sides.

"That was a very flattering scoreline for them and to my mind Kevin Keegan was the difference between the two sides. He has improved a lot over the past few years and he was brilliant that night."

"Apparently he won't be playing the game against us so it will be interesting to see how England do without him."

"Obviously they have still got a lot of experienced players. It's going to be a tight game but with the crowd behind us I must fancy our chances."

Northern Ireland's away game is at Hampden Park and McIlroy always finds it difficult to assess the Scots.

"If they could achieve any kind of consistency they could be one of the greatest sides in the world. But you never know how Scotland are going to perform. It depends on the team they put out."

"They have got some very good ball players as usual and Kenny Dalglish is someone we'll have to mark closely."

"People say that he doesn't turn

it on for Scotland but he's a great player and we'll have to watch him."

The Welsh visit Windsor Park for the final game of the Championship and they'll be hoping to pick themselves up after their disappointing defeat by West Germany.

That 2-0 loss in Wrexham has virtually destroyed their hopes of qualifying from their European Championship group. They'll be extra keen to do well in the domestic competition.

McIlroy finds their policies a bit confusing. "They seem to be rebuilding their squad but I notice they brought back John Toshack for the West German game. I wouldn't like to suggest Tosh is past it but I would have thought even he was surprised to play."

"If the Welsh intend to rebuild they ought to stick with some of the younger players."

"The Wales game could be crucial for us if we are in a position to win the title by then. John Mahoney and Brian Flynn will be in there battling for them to make it difficult for us. And I will have to watch my Manchester United team-mate Micky Thomas."

'WE'RE IN WITH A CHANCE'



Martin O'Neill (right) scores Northern Ireland's goal in their 1-1 draw against Scotland.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Kenny Dalglish (light shorts) misses a chance with only Dai Davies to beat. It's a Wales/Scotland clash that Asa Hartford will never forget.



'TWO HARD GAMES'

IT was a hard game for Scotland against Wales last season in the British Championship at Hampden, and I anticipate an equally hard one this time.

On the Hampden occasion, there was a lot of pressure on Scotland, as they were going to Argentina for the World Cup, and everyone looked to them for impressive performances before they left Britain.

Wales were strong in the midfield department that included Yorath, Flynn and Mahoney, and these players made it difficult for the Scots to dominate in this area.

Which means in the meeting coming up, the Welshmen will be looking to their midfield to make things awkward again for Scotland, especially as manager Mike Smith's team will be on home territory.

Micky Thomas of Manchester United, who didn't turn out against Scotland last year in the 1-1 draw at Hampden, is expected to be in the Welsh side probably making up the fourth member of their midfield squad, and Micky can be very dangerous on the left flank.

I won't try to predict a scoreline for this year's confrontation

**ASA HARTFORD —
MAN. CITY AND
SCOTLAND**



between the two sides, as goals may not be easy to come by.

In their defence, Wales have Dai Davies in goal, not forgetting Joey Jones at left-back, and neither of these two are likely to give anything away.

The big battle is almost certain to be fought out in midfield, though, and whichever team takes command should be able to get on top.

One Wales/Scotland clash which I won't forget was the one at Anfield in October, 1977, which qualified us for the World Cup. We won 2-0, but the scoreline did not accurately reflect the game.

I thought we had some luck on our side as it was a tremendous struggle that could have gone either way. And the atmosphere was electric right through the game.

Scotland v. Northern Ireland at Hampden should also be hard — a real corker, as Danny Blanchflower's men seem to do well there. Last year it was a 1-1 draw between us, and I don't expect there to be more than one goal in it this time.

They have some experienced players in their squad, and I rate

centre-half Chris Nicholl as one of the most underrated defenders in the game. Then there is Pat Jennings, plus those two capable full-backs Sammy Nelson and Pat Rice, who know it all.

Also Sammy McIlroy has had a great season, and Jimmy Nicholl is coming into his game which all adds up to a tough match for Scotland. We'll have to keep a close watch on Gerry Armstrong — a centre-forward I class as being in the old fashioned mould, always looking for a way through the defence.

It is almost certain to be a game notable for attacking football — Danny Blanchflower believes in it and is prepared to risk everything in his belief that his team does best when pushing forward.

It makes for exciting football, and appeals to the fans — also, Danny has made it work for Northern Ireland.

They convincingly defeated Bulgaria and I know from personal experience that Bulgaria are a useful side.

The boost to morale that Northern Ireland got from that victory means they will be chock full of confidence against Scotland — so we'll have to be on our toes to look for the goals we need to win. 9

GAMES in the British Championship are unlike any other internationals in the way in which they are played. Against teams outside these isles, such as those from the Continent or South America, the pattern of play is slow, unhurried, more "scientific" between the penalty-areas and lightning-fast inside them.

But matches between the Home nations tend to be more like Cup-ties, with everyone tearing around at 100 m.p.h. with no time to dwell on the ball and create thoughtful moves.

Partly, I suppose, it's because players are pitted against opponents they either play with, or against, regularly in the domestic Leagues; but mainly because the crowds tend to expect it.

Rarely is there a classic game in the Championship, full of skill and style. Perhaps it's asking too much of players needing to recuperate after a gruelling 60-match season involving Championship battles, promotion and relegation issues, and Cup-ties at home and abroad.

However, players do look forward to appearing in the British Championship. It gives them the chance to add further to their caps or to make their debut in their national shirt.

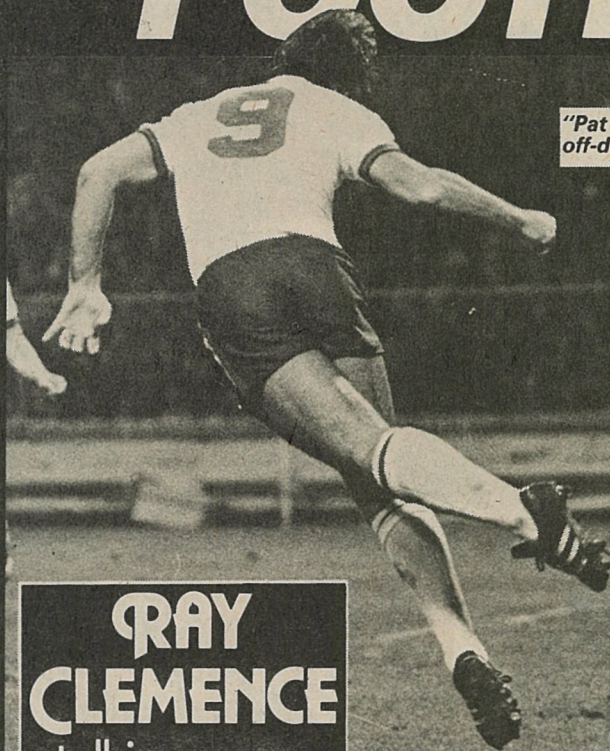
England play Northern Ireland away on May 19th, Wales at Wembley on Tuesday, May 22nd and Scotland in the climax there on May 26th.

New players tend to get blooded against the first two countries, generally regarded as weaker than Scotland.

It'll be interesting to see the make-up of Ron Greenwood's team for the opening match against Northern Ireland. Will he continue with those regulars out of form with their clubs, or recovering from injury, or will he decide to draft in new faces or bring back old ones?

Much as he wants England to retain the Championship, he'll obviously be looking farther ahead at European Championship qualifying games and making plans.

'100 M.P.H. FOOTBALL!'



"Pat Jennings had a rare off-day"



RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer

I'll not be facing a challenge from my main rival for the number one spot, Forest's Peter Shilton, as Ron Greenwood has decided against selecting any of Brian Clough's men for the tournament due to their involvement in preparations for the European Cup Final against Malmo, played in the week following.

But he could use the Northern Ireland game in Belfast as an opportunity to play Man. City's Joe Corrigan, especially as I will have had a League match against Leeds on the Thursday, only two days beforehand.

I was the man in possession for England's last match, against Northern Ireland at Wembley, when we

won most convincingly by four goals to nil.

I must admit to being very nervous in that match, owing to the unsettling effect of the pro-Peter Shilton campaign run by the Southern football writers. I'm not a robot. I'd been wounded by the unfair criticism hurled at me, and at times felt so depressed I wanted to pack the game in.

But I've got some good games under my belt since then, and my confidence has come flooding back.

Sometimes it's difficult to lift



yourself for games against Northern Ireland or Wales, to get really wound-up to play your best and go for a big win.

But there's certainly no problem getting motivated to play Northern Ireland in Belfast, as it's a dress rehearsal for our next European Championship game against them at that venue in October.

You can bet they'll be a much tougher proposition on their home ground than they were at Wembley, where 'keeper Pat Jennings had a rare off-day. Pat is so professional, so capable, that when he plays

"John Toshack almost wrecked my England career"



below par it has a dramatic, demoralising effect on his team-mates.

In his long international career he has saved his country again and again, and is rightly regarded as a corner stone of the side.

His shaky, untypical performance at Wembley was a contributory factor to a defeat which no one had dreamt possible before the kick-off. Mind you, the Northern Ireland defence as a whole was weak.

The odds against Pat again playing poorly are as high as those against an Everton season ticket-holder joining the Liverpool Supporters' Club.

One Irishman who did shine, however, at Wembley was Sammy McIlroy, who has probably had his finest-ever season at Manchester United. He's a player who never stops running and encouraging his team-mates, and he played a major role in United's F.A. Cup Semi-Final win over Liverpool.

It's fatal to allow Sammy too much space, so he'll be closely marked in Belfast.

Their manager, Danny Blanchflower, will be looking for some consolation for the disappointment of overseeing Chelsea's return to the Second Division. When he took over the managership of the London club he knew his task was almost a mission impossible.

Danny is a players' manager, they respond to him, and he'll get the Irish lads organised, so there's no danger of us inflicting another big defeat.

On England's last visit to Belfast, in 1977, they won 2-1 in a hard-fought game. Peter was in goal then. I had just returned from celebrating Liverpool's history-making European Cup win in Rome.

There'll be one notable omission from the England line-up. Kevin Keegan, scorer of our first goal at Wembley, who is needed by his club, Hamburger SV, for a League game which may turn out to be a West German Championship decider.

However, he'll be available for the following games, against Wales and Scotland at Wembley.

Kevin and I both made our England debuts against Wales in 1972. Incidentally, I've never been on the losing side against them.

On their last visit, Peter

Red Dragons, and his players regard him with great respect and affection. One handicap he faces is having only a small number of League players from which to pick, with many of them coming from sides in the lower Divisions.

On the credit side, though, is the fact he's able to field a settled side, and so the players have the opportunity to forge excellent understandings with each other. We all know at club level how essential it is to play with the same faces around us, players whose strengths and weaknesses we are well aware of.

It's nice to see John Toshack, my former Liverpool team-mate, recalled to the Wales squad. Tosh, now player-manager with promotion-thrusters Swansea City, has regained all his old sharpness since his operation on an Achilles tendon injury.

Tosh is only too familiar with the Liverpool defence, three of which may be on duty for England; but then we know his style, and stalemate could result.

Players tend to cancel each other out in the Home tournament.

Tosh almost ended my career with England. In my debut, at Ninian Park, we'd won 1-0; but in the "return" at Wembley he had scored past me. Only a Norman Hunter equaliser restored the balance and England's pride.

Following that disappointing result, I was dropped for two years!

After Wales, we take on Scotland on the Saturday. We've a score to settle with the Scots for beating us 2-1 on their last visit, two years ago.

I hear the F.A. have told Ron Greenwood it's essential we win this, as they can't afford the expense of again repairing a pitch and replacing goal-posts wrecked by celebrating Scots fans! But that behaviour is no laughing matter.



was in goal, and was given no chance of saving the penalty-kick that gave Mike Smith's men their first-ever win over us at Wembley.

Mike is the only "foreigner" to manage a British international side. He's English, but is tremendously dedicated to the cause of the

GOAL~LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published.

When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from David Henrys of Rossett, Wrexham, who wins our special prize of £3. He writes:

RIGHT DECISION

AS a Manchester City supporter, I was bitterly disappointed at the decision of Asa Hartford and Peter Barnes to leave the club, and seek "better" futures elsewhere.

Yet although losing two internationals, I feel the City management are absolutely right on this matter.

These are the attitudes most players seem to take now; a regular place in a successful team ... or else!

Hartford and Barnes are partly to blame for the poor form shown by City. Happily, Kazimierz Deyna seems to have settled his differences and combines well with recent signing Barry Silkman and the reborn Mike Channon. Youngsters such as Tony Henry, Nicky Reid and Gary Owen have made excellent progress and I can see a bright future for City without Hartford and Barnes.



● Obviously something had to be done and I expect more changes at Maine Road. Too many players were living on their reputations and not producing the goods, which is why City have struggled. It will be interesting to see how Barnes and Hartford (above), two highly-talented players, fare with their new clubs.

PEN-PAL

I'M a 13-year-old soccer fan and I'd like to have pen-pals in Europe, South America and the

U.S.A. I'm willing to exchange information, souvenirs, etc.

MARC LE CAM,
10101 29 RUE DU NIVERNAIS,
VILLEJEAN,
RENNES, 35000,
FRANCE.

POOR REWARD

ONCE again the England/Scotland game at Wembley is almost upon us and once again the loyal Scots have had a job trying to get tickets. Of the 30,000 tickets given to the S.F.A. only 4,000 go on sale, by public ballot, which always attracts around 150,000 applicants.

What reward for the fans who paid to cheer Scotland in Argentina and after the shambles still turned up to the tune of 65,000 for the game against Norway.

The S.F.A. councillors receive an unbelievable 30 stand and 20 terrace tickets each. This forces Scots to pay ridiculous prices for our tickets.

It's about time we demanded a fair share of the tickets from the men of the S.F.A., who you can bet didn't take 50 tickets for the Norway game.

GEORGE CALDWELL,
PAISLEY.

● Too often supporters are given a raw deal, especially for the big games like England/Scotland and Cup Finals. The S.F.A. councillors will be very reluctant to give up their allocation though.

MESSY WELCOME

IN Argentina, I thought the barrage of paper and streamers which greeted the players was most impressive. However, I think the way British fans throw torn-up bits of paper is stupid. It leaves the terraces covered in litter and the supporters should spare a thought for the people who have to clear up.

IAN WOOD,
'HARWELL.

● I think the Argentinian greeting is a marvellous way to salute players and I doubt if clubs would mind a little extra work for this non-violent crowd involvement.

JUST A MO

DOES the American television coverage of soccer have to influence our commentators? On Match of the Day recently, I heard it said: "Let's see that on the slow-mo."

SIMON HATCH,
CHELTENHAM.

● There are many aspects of the American way of presenting soccer acceptable to us. Perhaps their expressions are best left alone, though.

**STARTS
TODAY**

Our week-by-week account of the

Week ending AUGUST 19

ARGENTINES SHOCK CHAMPIONS

THIS week is, by tradition, the one in which predictions are made. Every team are going to be Champs — even if, before many months are out, many will be looking more like chumps instead.

Yet, if managers weren't unrealistically optimistic, why be one? (Why be one anyway, for that matter? It's only the directors who stay put ... come what may!)

The 1978-style Brian Clough, though, keeps his words to himself — and lets his lads do the talking.

A 5-0 drubbing of Ipswich in the Charity Shield pipe-opener more than underlines the fact Forest seem here to stay.

Which is hardly a message Liverpool can take lying down. European Cup-holders they might be — but, never resting on their laurels, £300,000 goes to Newcastle to add Alan Kennedy to an already super-squad.

And neighbours Everton, having already topped that by £25,000 for Blackpool's Mick Walsh, prove that money is not as short as jobs on Merseyside.

The real big transfer-interest, though, centres on a deal the previous month which removed Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa from Argentina's World Cup-winning squad to the payroll of newly-promoted Spurs.

How would they cope in the cauldron of English First Division football?

A tough enough start at Forest, but Spurs come back with a creditable 1-1 draw. Ardiles shows all his World Cup skills — while it's Villa who gets the point-earning goal.

Not to be outdone in the overseas stakes, Ipswich also sign one from nearer home — and the £200,000 to Twente Enschede for Dutch international Arnold Muhren looks as if it could turn out to be a giveaway fee.

No real sensations on the big kick-off day. Liverpool start with a win (no surprise there!) and relegated West Ham signal their intention of a quick return to the First Division with a 5-2 battering of Notts County.

Luton go one better by beating Oldham 6-1 — but perhaps the biggest interest is at Highbury.

Arsenal and Leeds share four goals in an entertaining opener — but the main talking-point is the presence of interested spectator Jock Stein.

The Big Man is rumoured to be on the end of a £30,000 a year offer to "emigrate" from his Scottish homeland to take up the reins at Elland Road.

Lower down the League's social scale, newcomers Wigan kick-off with a satisfying draw at Hereford.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 6 — Luton.
TOTAL GOALS: 124 (average 2.70 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: 2 — Cross (West Ham v. Notts County), Joicey (Barnsley v. Halifax).
HIGHEST GATE: 56,136 (Man. Utd. v. Birmingham).
TOTAL GATE: 617,135.
AVERAGE GATE: 13,416.

LATE DOUBLE BOOSTS CELTIC

THE League season in Scotland is in its second week. Last Saturday (August 12th), Rangers unfurled their Championship flag before their home game v. St. Mirren. However, the Paisley side weren't too impressed and won 1-0. Celtic beat Morton 2-0.

This Saturday Celtic go on a goalscoring spree and over-run a disappointing Hearts team 4-0. Alfie Conn back to his sharp-shooting best grabs a late double. McAdam and Burns are the other two on target for The Celts.

A spy team from Juventus see Rangers once again failing to score in the match at Easter Road against Hibs.

Urquhart, Rangers' new signing from Inverness Caley teams up with Parlane and Smith ... but it's a story of missed chances.

Derek Frye's career with Dundee United gets off to a sizzling start. In his

debut against Thistle he scores in the eighth minute and gives his team a 1-1 draw away from home.

Harper "dons" hat-trick for Aberdeen in their 3-1 victory over Morton. Ritchie scores for the Greenock outfit. Harper with more than 200 goals to his credit — a record for the Pittodrie club — says he hopes, this season, to add a Championship medal to his collection.

At St. Mirren, Motherwell win 1-0.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 6 — Berwick.
TOTAL GOALS: 51.
HIGHEST GATE: 22,000 (Celtic v. Hearts).
PREM. DIV. TOTAL GATE: 71,000.
TABLE TOPPERS: Celtic.



LEFT ... Forest's John McGovern (left) and Archie Gemmill with the Charity Shield. RIGHT ... Aberdeen striker Joe Harper.



Week ending AUGUST 26

LIVERPOOL GO TO TOWN

LEEADS have a new manager — as Jock Stein signs on the dotted line. It looks an inspired choice and the club, with justification, feel this is a big step forward towards regaining the glory of the Revie days.

There's another interesting "foreign debut" as Muhren takes his bow for Ipswich — but trust those super-pros from Liverpool to put their spoke in!

Muhren himself looks a very handy acquisition — but the admiration of the Portman Road crowd is somewhat subdued as two goals from Dalglish, and another from Souness, send Paisley's merry men coasting to a handsome 3-0 away win.

And there's another midweek home upset when Ardiles and Villa — fresh from their personal success on Forest's ground — step out for the first time at White Hart Lane.

Visitors Aston Villa have been badly hit by injuries — but they still slot in four goals; replied to only by a Glenn Hoddle penalty.

What are Forest up to? Cloughie has indicated his aims to strengthen his squad — yet accepts £200,000 from Newcastle for striker Peter Withe, one of his scorers in the 5-0 hammering of Ipswich at Wembley only a few days earlier.

Liverpool go to town — Manchester, that is — with a 4-1 battering of City at Maine road; while up-coming West Bromwich comfortably dispose of newly-promoted Bolton 4-0.

But what of League Champions Forest — especially after that convincing Charity Shield win? True, they're still unbeaten — but a lacklustre goal-less game at struggling Q.P.R. is their third draw in as many games.

Hardly the early-season form to suggest

holding on to their title.

Clough again intimates he's ready to spend heavily — and both Leeds' Jock Stein, and Arsenal's Terry Neill, suggest there's half-a-million-plus in their own kettles for the right man.

But whom? As Frank McLintock — skipper of Arsenal's "Double"-winning team, and more latterly manager of Leicester — puts it: "The whole thing's getting out of hand. Average players now cost at least £200,000, and good 'uns maybe twice as much."

"But, for more than half a million, you're entitled to expect someone a bit special — and I can't think of more than ten genuinely worth that kind of money."

Rangers looking for their first League win create the chances against Thistle but men can't find that finishing touch.

Aberdeen's new manager Alex Ferguson watches angrily from the dug-out as his team struggle to draw with Dundee United. St Mirren win at Morton 3-1.

But sport in Scotland is marred by the violence on and off the field ...

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Coventry; Liverpool; West Bromwich; Wimbledon.
TOTAL GOALS: 104 (average 2.42 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: 1 — Cork (Wimbledon v. Northampton).
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Liverpool; Div 2, Stoke; Div 3, Chester; Div 4, Barnsley.
HIGHEST GATE: 46,710 (Man. City v. Liverpool).
TOTAL GATE: 555,983.
AVERAGE GATE: 12,930.

BATTLE AT TYNECASTLE

SICKENING scenes on the Tyne as a terrifying ruin what should be a festive occasion as Hearts and Hibs meet for the first time in 16 months. Fighting breaks out a good hour before the kick-off and the police are kept busy weeding out the hooligans.

On the park there is trouble too. Two Hearts men get their marching orders — goalscorer Park and skipper Jefferies. Kilgour of Hibs and sub Robertson of Hearts are booked. Lambie the Hibs coach is cautioned. MacLeod equalises for Hibs three minutes after the scheduled time. All

through the match ambulancemen tend wounded fans.

Celtic again become the green goal-machine and rattle Motherwell with five goals.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 5 — Celtic.
TOTAL GOALS: 51.
TABLE-TOPPERS: Celtic.
HIGHEST GATE: 20,000 (Hearts v. Hibs).
PREM. DIV. TOTAL ATT: 68,000.



Peter Withe (stripes) joined Newcastle from Nottingham Forest. Hibs' Ally MacLeod (right).



1978-79 season in England and Scotland

Week ending SEPTEMBER 2

LEAGUE CUP SHOCKS

STRANGER things have happened — but it's still a bit of an eye-opener the way Gary glitters at Bramall Lane. And a single goal, ten minutes from time, by Gary Hamson is enough for Second Division Sheffield United to bundle all-conquering Liverpool out of the League Cup.

Another Cup surprise next night, too, when Third Division Swansea hold Spurs to 2-2 at Vetch Field — after former Liverpool "hard-man" Tommy Smith puts Ardiles out of the game with a somewhat controversial tackle.

High-flying Arsenal also bow out 3-1 at Third Division Rotherham — while a likely coloured lad named Luther Blissett gives a hint of things to come by brilliantly scoring both the Watford goals which put paid to Newcastle.

Over recent years, West Ham have built up an unenviable reputation of being a Cup "pushover" for the lesser lights — and, true to tradition, Swindon gain a 2-1 win at Upton Park.

And yet another Third Division club, Blackpool, make no mistake in ensuring Ipswich don't add the League Cup in 1979 to the F.A. Cup they won in 1978.

It doesn't take much to ruffle the proud feathers of Liverpool — and, after that shock League Cup defeat, it was always on the cards that someone soon had to pay for it.

Alas for Spurs, that "someone" happened to be them, five days later — and Anfield provided the setting for the complete demolition of Senor Ardiles

and Co.

Kenny Dalglish slams home the first after just ten minutes — and, by the time Terry McDermott gets the last in the 76th minute, the not-so-Hotspurs are trailing by 7-0.

Manager Bob Paisley is generous enough to admit that "everything went right" for his side — but, even by Liverpool's high standards, it's still a pretty devastating performance.

Forest draw their fourth game in four, but Arsenal's 5-1 destruction of London rivals Q.P.R. suggests they've put their own League Cup defeat behind them.

And Leeds show new manager Jock Stein just what they're made of with a slick 3-0 win at Chelsea, who already look as if they could be another London club in trouble this season.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 7 — Liverpool.
TOTAL GOALS: 108 (average 2.51 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: 2 — Spence (Blackpool v. Carlisle); Hemmerman (Portsmouth v. Crewe).
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Liverpool; Div 2, Stoke; Div 3, Swansea; Div 4, Barnsley.
HIGHEST GATE: 53,982 (Man. Utd. v. Everton).
TOTAL GATE: 564,003.
AVERAGE GATE: 13,116.

PENALTY "SHOOT-OUT"

THE Clubs take a break from League football and the spotlight falls on the Scottish League Cup. Celtic 3-1 up from the Tannadice match finally beat Dundee United 4-2 on aggregate after substitute Glavin scores from the penalty-spot in the 85th minute.

Meadowbank travel to Aberdeen 5-0 down and are 9-0 over the two games. But Second Division Falkirk rock Thistle. The match ends in a draw but Falkirk are the winners and the scoreline read Falkirk 5 Thistle 3 after a penalty "shoot-out".

Rangers get going and the goals start to come. They beat Forfar 4-1, 7-1 on aggregate. Hearts are beaten 4-1 by Morton and go out 7-2. St. Mirren are the 5-1 victors over Berwick and they go

through 8-2. Hibs win 3-1 against Brechin and end up 6-1 on aggregate.

Motherwell, trailing 3-1 after the first match against Clyde at Shawfield, turn on the style in front of their own fans. Willie Pettigrew is the Motherwell maestro. The Fir Park club leave the pitch the 3-0 winners to go into the next round 4-3.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST GATE: 22,500 (Celtic v. Dundee United).
CUP GATES: (Total) 89,700.
TOTAL GOALS: 70.
HIGHEST SCORE: (5) St Mirren.



Arsenal (light shirts) were beaten by Rotherham in the League Cup. Motherwell's Willie Pettigrew (right).

Week ending SEPTEMBER 9

SPURS AXE FALLS

BRIAN Clough opens the week with a telling quote — "Half the nation will say we haven't won yet; but the other half will also notice we've not been beaten, either!" — and ends it with a much more convincing 2-1 victory over Arsenal to prove Forest certainly can't be written off quite so easily yet.

Overseas imports still provide many of the talking-points — and Arsenal add to them by confirming their interest in Ajax's Dutch World Cup star, Rudi Krol.

Krol says he'd like to play in English football — but, unfortunately for all concerned, the projected move seems to peter out.

It's a bitter blow for struggling Birmingham — not to mention Ron Greenwood's squad plans — when Trevor Francis badly cracks an ankle in training, and could well be out of the fray for some time.

There's yet another move for that hard-to-understand striker — sometimes pure magic; other times near-rubbish — Duncan McKenzie.

Having already done the rounds of Forest, Leeds, and Anderlecht . . . the likeable Dunc comes South from Everton to Chelsea in exchange for £165,000.

Moving in the opposite direction between London and Lancashire is Leighton James — who arrives back at Burnley, his first club, from Q.P.R. for around the same sort of fee.

But the biggest London shocks come from White Hart Lane. First Swansea travel up from Wales to humiliate Spurs 3-1 in a lively League Cup replay; and that

makes them the eighth First Division side to be toppled by a club from a lower Division in this season's competition.

Then Glenn Hoddle, rated one of England's most promising young players, is one of five axed for the following match.

Spurs only win 1-0 at home thanks to a Bristol City own goal, and there are clearly problems ahead to be sorted out.

Two of the League's most controversial bosses explode on the Saturday — Derby's Tommy Docherty, after Charlie George has been sent off at Bolton; and Brian Clough, who denounces an unwelcome minority of Forest fans as "obscene louts".

Saddest news of the week comes from the Midlands — and Villa's John Robson.

Robson — once a member of Clough's Championship-winning Derby side, and often on the fringe of full England honours — is told he can never kick a football again . . . a tragic young victim of the cruel and crippling disease of Multiple Sclerosis.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: 4 — Mansfield; Walsall.
TOTAL GOALS: 103 (average 2.34 per game).
HAT-TRICKS: None.
TABLE-TOPPERS: Div 1, Liverpool; Div 2, Stoke; Div 3, Swansea; Div 4, Barnsley.
HIGHEST GATE: 40,125 (Man. City v. Leeds).
TOTAL GATE: 545,291.
AVERAGE GATE: 12,393.

DRAMA AT PARKHEAD

THE new Old Firm of John Greig and Billy McNeill for the first time face each other as managers at Parkhead. Dramatically Celtic take the lead after 90 seconds . . . five players are booked . . . and Rangers miss a penalty.

McAdam opens the scoring, McCluskey makes it two after 21 minutes. But Rangers stage a fight-back and Parlange nets in the 49th minute. The Ibrox side go out for the equaliser.

But they are caught out pushing forward and Craig breaks away to cross to McAdam. He easily scores his second. Rangers keep piling on the pressure and a rattled Edvaldsson gives away a penalty.

There had been fighting on the terraces. Now all is quiet. Alex Miller takes the kick, Latchford hurls himself to one side and saves.

In spite of the defeat, Giovanni Trapattoni, the manager of Juventus, who is at the game, thinks Rangers will be a

hard team to beat when the two meet in Wednesday's European Cup First Round in Turin.

Aberdeen keep up their title challenge with a 4-0 win over Motherwell. Harper and Archibald do the damage.

Scotland team-boss Ally MacLeod goes along to Firhill to check on 'keeper Alan Rough and sees him play his part in Thistle's exciting 3-2 win over Hearts.

Dundee United go down 2-1 at home to visiting Morton while Hibs get the one goal that matters against St. Mirren.

★ SATURDAY SUMMARY ★

HIGHEST SCORE: (4) Aberdeen, East Stirling.
TOTAL (3 DIVS): 53.
TABLE TOPPERS: Celtic.
HIGHEST GATE: 60,000 (Celtic v. Rangers).
PREM. DIV. TOTAL ATT: 93,000.



Derby County manager Tommy Docherty (above). Partick's Alan Rough thwarts Tom McAdam of Celtic.

Go for the Double

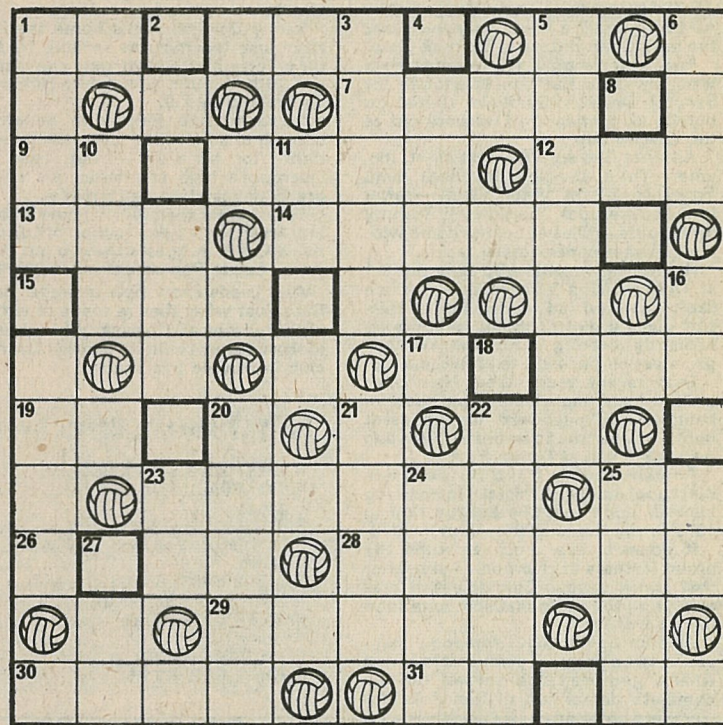
After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of an Ipswich Town defender. Answers on page 42.

ACROSS:—

- (1) Paul —, Ipswich Town striker.
- (7) Give up possession or occupancy of.
- (9) Paul —, Manchester City player.
- (12) Lon--- Road Ground (Peterborough United). The omissions reversed.
- (13) Justin F---anu of Norwich City.
- (14) Vigour or activity.
- (15) Kevin —, Norwich City striker.
- (17) Alan ----i-hley (West Ham). Brush hard from the missing letters.
- (19) A hard match might cause one's legs to do this.
- (22) B---tia; French League club.
- (23) — Rovers; Scots Division Two club from Clifton Hill Park.
- (25) Alan -il-y of Cambridge United.
- (26) -i-dles-ro-gh (The Ironsides). Silent from the missing letters.
- (28) Eagerly or greedily.
- (29) Russell —, Ipswich defender.
- (30) Weather condition responsible for the cancellation of many fixtures this year.
- (31) — United, for whom Jack Charlton played.

DOWN:—

- (1) Roy —, Derby County defender.
- (2) — United The Millers of Division Three.
- (3) Opposite of "odds"!
- (4) T---nme-- Rovers from Prenton Park.
- (5) They won the Scottish Cup, League Cup and League Championship in 1977-78.
- (6) Aberdeen's colour.
- (8) --rqua- United from Plainmoor.
- (10) Luis --ar-z ("European Footballer of the Year", 1960). Employ from the missing letters.
- (11) Location of the Achilles tendon.
- (16) — Stadium of Cambridge United.
- (18) Description of the "animal" finder of the World Cup when it was stolen in 1966.
- (20) Joint of the arm.
- (21) — Brady, Arsenal player.
- (24) Kennington —, venue of the first F.A. Cup Final (1872).
- (25) --oomfi-l- Road; home of Blackpool.
- (27) Kenny B---s; "Footballer of the Year", 1977/78.



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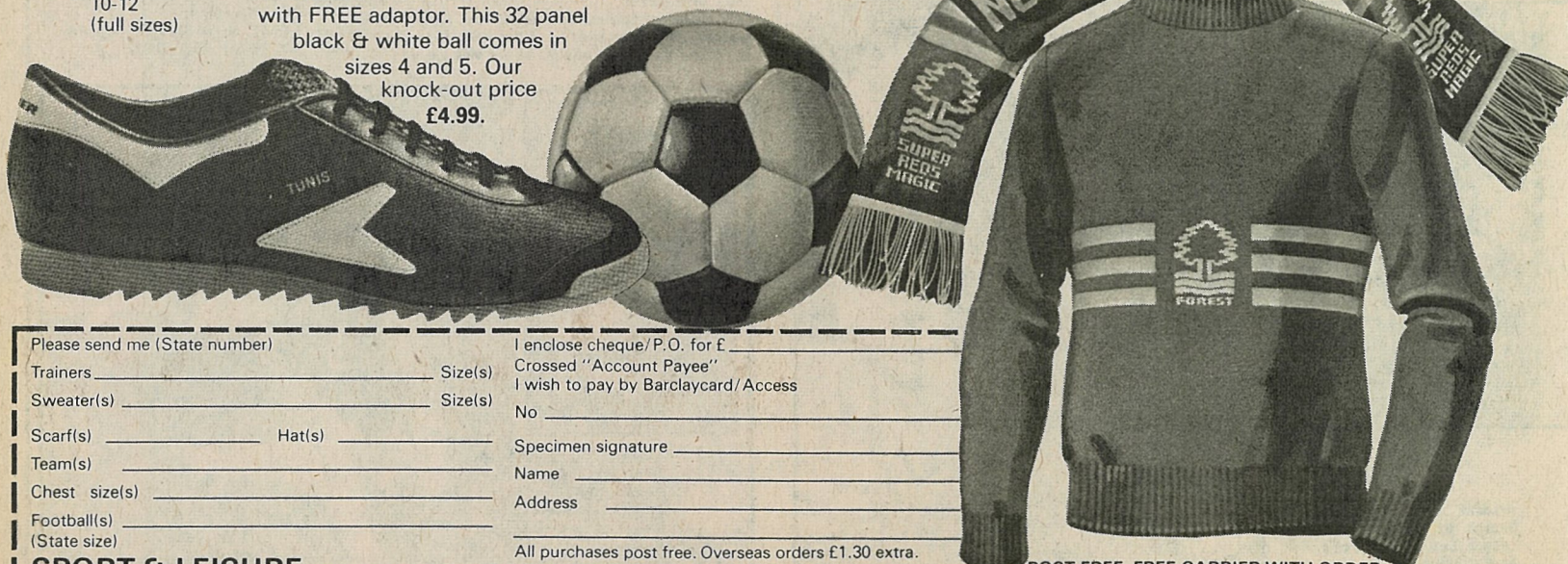
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Liverpool	West Ham	30-32			
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BELOW ... Nottingham Forest skipper John McGovern is on his knees as he tries to stop Leeds' Trevor Cherry.

RIGHT ... Osvaldo Ardiles (right) of Spurs is halted by two Bristol City players.



GETTING TO GRIPS



LEFT ... Nick Holmes of Southampton (right) beats Birmingham's Jimmy Calderwood to the ball — by an arm.
RIGHT ... With a little help, Chelsea's John Sinton outjumps Frank Stapleton of Arsenal.



LIAM BRADY
Rep. of Ireland
and Arsenal



SHOOT!

IRVING NATTRASS
Newcastle United



SHOOT!

PREVIEW:

DAVID O'LEARY COMMENTS ON THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND'S VITAL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP TIE AND FRIENDLY v. WEST GERMANY

BEWARE of Bulgaria! That's the warning issued by David O'Leary, Arsenal's Republic of Ireland centre-half, as his country prepare for their vital European Championship Group One match in Sofia on May 29.

Beaten twice by Northern Ireland already and seemingly out of the running, the disappointing Bulgars are nonetheless reputed to be a national team of two very different faces. O'Leary believes that so far the world has only seen the off-form face.

He said: "I played against them two years ago in a match arranged during the summer and they were strong, hard and very well organised. That is the Bulgaria I expect to face again. Why? Because Northern Ireland have played them twice during the period they usually spend taking a mid-season winter break, and just after coming back from that break.

"When we go out there — the same will apply to England — the weather will be good, the Bulgarians right back in the swing of their game and the attendance could top 70,000 as opposed to the miserable turnout when Northern Ireland were there in November.

"It would be a mistake to underestimate an Iron Curtain side on their own soil, especially when they have so much work to do to save face and improve their showing in this Group. We are in for one

'Beware of Bulgaria'

very hard match."

But then O'Leary expects this Group to remain a close battle right up to the last match when the Republic of Ireland visit Wembley in February, next year.

"When the dust settles, I believe it will be between England and ourselves, providing we do well against Bulgaria and Northern Ireland. I would like nothing better than to settle it and decide who goes to the Rome Finals by winning at Wembley. But we have a lot of hard work to do first.

"What annoys me is we threw away a silly point in Denmark, and it was partly my fault. We led the Danes 3-1 with 12 minutes to go, then I gave away a penalty and minutes later they stormed back again and levelled. Yet we had them beaten on their own ground.

That point could still haunt us in months to come.

"Johnny Giles has done a marvellous job over the past few years in making the Irish Republic team one to be respected. This is illustrated by the way we face West Germany and World Champions Argentina inside a matter of a week, both in Dublin.

"These are prestige games and opportunities for us to extend our run of playing against world-class opposition. That way, with our small squad, we will become more and more like a club side with a good understanding of each other's play and a working system on the pitch.

"We all know how hard the Germans work at keeping up their image. Look what they did to an in-form Wales team in that 2-0 win at Wrexham. There is no such thing as a friendly, as such, at this level.

"Of course, our match in Bulgaria is the most important of the three. After beating Denmark 2-0 in Dublin, Giles knows at last that his reserve-strength is not as weak as we feared.

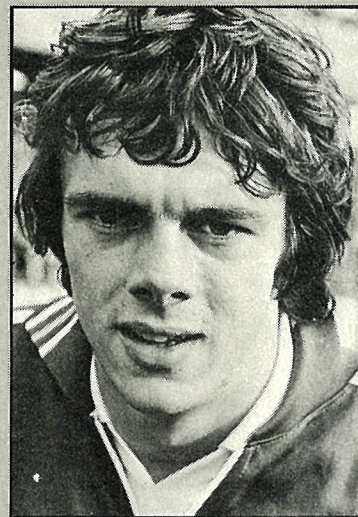
"The Danes had European Footballer of 1978, Allan Simonsen, in their attack while we were without some of our first choice players. Yet we achieved a fine result.

"It has become customary to praise the Irish team for making a brave bid for international glory, a bid few people take seriously nor expect to succeed. This time things are different. Like England, and unlike the other three teams in Group One, we are still unbeaten after four games.

"And what is easily forgotten is Giles can name an all-First Division team if he wants now Brighton and Stoke City are promoted to the top flight.

"It's not for me to say what team our manager will select, but I hope to be part of his plans for Bulgaria. I really believe we can pip the rest for that Rome place in 1980. To do so we must beat Bulgaria in their own back yard.

"It will be tough, but the way we feel at the moment, with calibre players such as Mark Lawrenson, Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton, Steve Heighway and Gerry Daly in our ranks, we can make that Wembley match something of an international Cup Final."



Denmark striker Frank Arnesen (right) gets the better of Eire's Eamonn Gregg during their recent European Championship game.

IN NEXT WEEK'S SHOOT

Previews of Two Big Games

ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

British Championship

NOTTM. FOREST v. MALMO

European Cup Final

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'The Liverpool machine was better tuned this term'

says Ray Kennedy

THE Liverpool machine was a more efficient, better tuned vehicle this season than last year. And that's why Bob Paisley's side stormed away towards another League Championship title.

Who says so? None other than midfield man Ray Kennedy, who has played a key part in Liverpool's success of recent years. Kennedy says that Liverpool, 1979 version, have been a far more impressive outfit.

"Last season, we sometimes got results without playing all that well but this season, I feel we played brilliantly as a team most of the time."

"We battled for the first 20 minutes and kept that up. We played better football, too."

Kennedy says that it's all down to even greater consistency, a factor which has seldom been far from the Liverpool make-up.

"We did it most weeks and that's what a side has to aim for," he says. "It's no good at all playing superbly one week, showing people you can do it — but then not finding that sort of form again for another five weeks. To win the League title, you have to reach that peak very rapidly and stay there. That is the hardest thing of all to do."

● According to reports, Israeli soccer star Avi Cohen will fly to England next Friday (May 25th) to sign for Liverpool.

Chairman John Smith and secretary Peter Robinson recently visited Tel Aviv to discuss terms with Avi and his club Tel Aviv Maccabi. The 22-year-old Israeli international sweeper had a trial at Anfield in February.

CYMRU CUP

THE Republic of China is sending one of its leading youth teams, Tsyr Yow, to take part in the Cymru Cup, the National Youth Tournament of Wales, on August 13th-19th.

The tournament is open to any British club, providing they are under 18.

Details and a colour brochure can be obtained from the Cymru Cup Office, C&G Intersport (UK) Ltd., Godolphin House, The Avenue, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9AA. Telephone: (0638) 5750/5888.

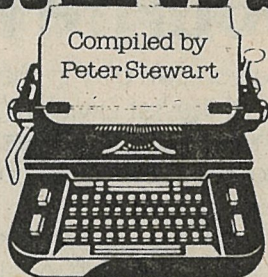
West Brom's Northern Branch

A FEW weeks ago I mentioned West Brom's Northern Branch of their Supporters' Club. Well, they've since moved. I've been asked to point out all inquiries should now be addressed to P. J. Evans, Secretary, 24 Wharnclyffe Drive, Eccleshill, Bradford 2, West Yorkshire.

The North Western section of the branch is run by Neil Wigley, 4 Oldfield Road, Sale, Cheshire.

NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



DESK

WALSALL, who do not attract very much attention over a season, are likely to have little or no Press coverage at all in the future . . . at their own request.

They have informed the media that Press inquiries will only be dealt with between 9.00 a.m. and 10 a.m. daily and that manager Frank Sibley, will only be available for interviews between 9.15 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Thursdays and after each first team match.

The only problem about timing of the Sibley interview is that he commutes from London and could well be delayed at times.

At this rate Walsall might well be advised to shut up shop and go into some other business where there is no need for public relations.

HEARTS haven't had the right kind of breaks in their fight to avoid relegation from the Scottish Premier Division. In a vital game against Partick Thistle at Tynecastle, they not only lost 2-0 but also the services of Graham Shaw with a leg break, and Derek O'Connor with a broken arm. Shaw had just returned to first team duty after a lengthy spell of injury.

FACTastic

CAN you imagine England turning out two full international sides on the same day? Believe it or not, it actually happened. In 1890 Wales and Ireland were regarded as "easy meat" so on March 15th that year England played British Championship matches against Wales at Wrexham and Ireland in Belfast, winning 3-1 and 9-1. A year later on March 7th England met the Welshmen at Sunderland winning 4-1 and Ireland at Wolverhampton, with a 6-1 victory. Then in 1892, on March 5th the two "one-day" England sides travelled to Wrexham where they beat Wales 2-0 and to Belfast where they won by a similar score.

ANGLO/ITALIAN CUP WINNERS

BERGER Isthmian Leaguers Sutton United won this year's Anglo/Italian Cup when they defeated Chieti recently. Chieti is not far from Pescara on the Adriatic coast. The competition is open to Semi-Professional clubs in both countries.

NORTHERN Ireland 'keeper Pat Jennings needs just one more British Championship outing to equal ex-England skipper Billy Wright's 38-cap post-war record for a player in the Home Series. Indeed, Jennings, who shares Ireland's 37-cap British Championship total with Danny Blanchflower, could overtake Wright's tally in the present tournament.

Eire v. West Germany

AFTER seven months without an international, the Eire public have a chance of seeing plenty of top action in Dublin this month.

Denmark have already played at Lansdowne Road, now West Germany pay their first visit to the Rugby Union headquarters on Tuesday next (May 22nd) kick-off 7.30 p.m.

The Germans' last game in Dublin was at Dalymount Park in May, 1966, when they won 4-0. That, of course, was just before the World Cup Finals where West Germany eventually lost to England in the Final at Wembley.

In fact, seven of the ten previous meetings between the sides have been in the month of May and like the ten next week's match is a friendly.

The last time the countries met in a full international was in May, 1970, in Berlin when West Germany won 2-1.

Eire's goal that day was scored by Paddy Mulligan, his only goal for his country.

Next visitors to Dublin are World Champions Argentina on Tuesday week (May 29th).

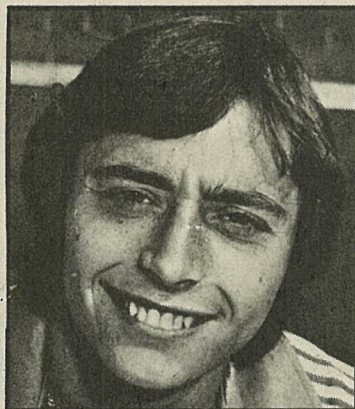
NEXT season Manchester City will play midweek matches on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays.

Remember Trebilcock?

GRAEME Hardes has written to me from Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, about Mike Trebilcock. Remember him? Mike scored two of Everton's F.A. Cup winning goals against Sheffield Wednesday in the 1966 Final and then drifted out of the game in England.

Today Mike is player-coach of Australian club Cardiff.

"Mike is also coach of a Northern New South Wales representative squad and is doing a wonderful job out here," says Graeme, who also plays for Cardiff.

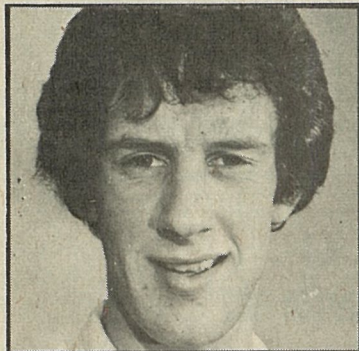


PRESTON recently refused an offer of around £300,000 for a young striker they were once considering freeing for nothing. Now Mick Robinson (above) reckons that Alan Kelly, Deepdale's assistant-manager, saved his career.

"Alan came back with me for extra training in the afternoons and on my days off. I have to thank him for everything," reveals Robinson.

Although an established group wanted to record the song it was decided to let these lads from Brentwood, Essex, do the singing as part of their fund raising campaign to launch their newly-formed football club.

A TRIBUTE to Southampton manager Lawrie McMenemy from the Northern League. McMenemy, who was in charge of Bishop Auckland in the mid-1960's, was to be guest speaker at the annual dinner of the League on May 18. With the proposed extension to the season, the League switched to June 8th to make sure the North-East born personality could attend.



ST. MIRREN turned down an Aberdeen bid of over £100,000 for their talented midfielder Billy Stark a few months ago. Could be Arsenal will top that figure to bring Billy to London.

But Terry, who is publican of The Prince of Wales Hotel in the town, did such a tremendous job, all at Cheltenham are hoping to persuade the man who made 821 record-breaking appearances in the Football League to stay on at The Robins.

Ironically, Ireland have fared better in away fixtures in the post-War era, being victorious at Wembley (3-2) in 1957 and 1972 (1-0). They also held England to memorable away draws, 2-2 at Everton, in 1947, and 1-1 at Wembley, in 1961. During this 17-match spell, however, the Irish managed only 16 goals, while England hit 49.

MANCHESTER United hold one of the season's little-known distinctions. They have gone longer than any club without playing a goalless Football League draw. Their last one was against Middlesbrough at Old Trafford on March 4th last year.

"A lot of people condemn coaching as such, but Roeder is proof that it works. When I took over, I thought there were a lot of things wrong with his game, but he has worked morning and afternoon to put them right," explains Burtenshaw.

MORTON'S "Mr Magic", Andy Ritchie, is Scotland's "Footballer of the Year". Andy was the clear winner in a poll carried out by Scottish football writers. Second was Dundee United's Paul Hegarty, and third, Aberdeen's goalkeeper, Bobby Clark.

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As far as I know, though, there's no record of precisely who he was.

**MARTYN BINKS,
BOLTON**

Spurs won 2-1 away in the first-leg, then drew 1-1 at home, to take the Cup on a 3-2 aggregate.

Taylor said: "Obviously the ball is a very special memento for me, but it is going in a good cause."



SHORT PASSES

(JAMES HANLY, Eire)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

PELE PLAYS

PELE was yet again on a football pitch last month — this time playing for Flamengo of Rio in a charity game, whose gate receipts were sent to the victims of the recent floods in Brazil.

Pelé, 39, played alongside Zico, the most outstanding Brazilian footballer of the moment, and a slight problem arose due to the fact that, like Pelé, Zico also always plays with the number ten shirt. Zico rushed to say he wouldn't mind playing with shirt number nine, for a change.

"Pelé became so identified with shirt number ten all over the world that they are synonymous now," said Zico. "I never saw myself as a new Pelé and indeed I never tried to copy him in any way because I know our styles are very different. Any time Pelé wants to play for Flamengo, I'll give him shirt number ten."

Some days before the game Zico became a sort of a phenomenon in his own right when he scored six goals in a match against Americano in the Rio League. It is true that four of these were from the penalty spot, but Zico was still very happy.

"The referee gave us the penalties because we were going to score anyway. It had been such a long time since we were awarded penalties that in the first two I was afraid I was going to miss, for lack of practice. But after that my confidence came back."



Nonetheless, Zico's critics point out that in the next game, against America, when he was subject to closer marking, he didn't score and didn't play well either.

They reminded other people of what became known in Brazil as a Helmut Schoen's dictum: that Zico is strong with the meek and meek with the strong.

THEY really worship their idols in soccer-crazy Brazil. Biro-Biro is the hero in Sao Paulo, and polled 26,000 votes at the Brazilian parliamentary elections.

That was surprising, as Biro-Biro wasn't on the list of candidates and has no intention of going into politics!

WORLDWIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

HERO TO RETURN

NILS Liedholm, one of the links in the famous Gre-No-Li forward line of Italian football during the Fifties, will almost certainly take over as Sweden's international team manager if, as is expected, George Ericson resigns later this year.

The AC Milan manager has expressed his interest to return to his native country after 30 years' service as a player and manager in the Italian League. Liedholm has been approached by the Swedish F.A. to discuss a contract.

"The Count of Milan" joined AC Milan in 1949 after having won a gold medal with Sweden in the London Olympics 1948. Liedholm skippered Milan to Italian and European honours and in his first season as the Milan boss this year he has the Italian Championship within reach.

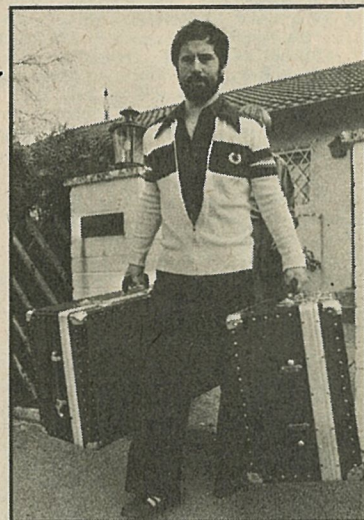
ROGER Vonlathen has resigned as manager of Switzerland, ending a controversial two years in charge of the team which constantly disappointed.

His successor is Leon Walker, 42, who has been in charge of the junior side.

Under Volanthen, Switzerland won four of their 15 games, losing ten.

GERD LEAVES

Off to Fort Lauderdale... Gerd Müller is ready to start his new career in the United States after many successful years with Bayern Munich.



PROFESSIONAL AMATEURS

LUTZ Eigendorf, who, as reported, defected to West Germany after Dynamo Berlin played in Kaiserslautern, has made some revealing remarks about the "amateur" players in East Germany.

He claims they were on a win-bonus of £1,500 to beat Holland in the European Championship (they lost 0-3) — a DDR labourer has to work a year to earn that sum. Eigendorf went on to say that for internationals against other Eastern European countries, their bonus was only £750. He earned £500 a month playing in Berlin.

Interesting...

IN Yugoslavia, four top referees have been forced to hang up their whistles after failing rigorous medical tests. One had cardiac irregularities; a second suffered from asthma; and the other two were found to be so colourblind they couldn't tell the difference between a red card and a yellow one!



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LEICESTER Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
LEICESTER Away	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
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ENGLAND Home	S/Boys	Boys	Youths	S/Mens	Large
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ARGENTINA AND HOLLAND MEET AGAIN

ARGININA manager César Luis Menotti could be heading for a confrontation with soccer's ruling body, F.I.F.A. On May 22nd, World Champions Argentina meet Holland in a so-called repeat of the 1978 World Cup Final and Menotti has not been at all pleased by some recent events.

He says: "I'm surprised F.I.F.A. are promoting the game as if it were a return match, a chance for the Dutch to get revenge. I don't think it's right, especially in the official programme."

"I don't understand their reasoning as the match was fixed before it was known who would be World Champions. I want to go on record as saying for Argentina it is just another game."

"It would be ridiculous, for example, should Holland beat us and people say they're World Champions. If they want that title, they must play many matches to reach the 1982 Final in Spain."

The make-up of Argentina next week is unknown. Menotti has said all along he wouldn't use European-based players on this tour. It appears that F.I.F.A., not Menotti, have asked for the release of Mario Kempes, Daniel Bertoni and Osvaldo Ardiles to make the game as near a second World Cup Final as possible.

"If F.I.F.A. manage to secure these players' releases then we shall see whether to include them or not. I'll want to see what sort of physical shape they're in. For example, Ardiles may be too tired to even take a throw-in after a demanding season in England."

To replace the absentees, Menotti has called up 13 new players, including youngsters like Barbas and Simón, who starred in the recent South American Youth Tournament.

But all eyes will be focussed on Argentina's 18-year-old superstar Diego Maradona, whose development hasn't been helped by the world's Press describing him as "the new Pelé" — a distortion of comments made by Menotti.

The Argentine manager who actually played alongside Pelé with Santos, *did* say Maradona "does some of the things Pelé did when he was 18," and European fans will be eager to see if the left-flank midfielder can produce his top form against the Dutch.

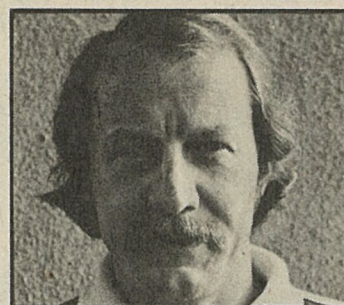
Goalkeeper "Pato" Fillol is back in favour after a contractual row with River Plate threatened his future, although there is a doubt about the fitness of Leopoldo Luque.

Meanwhile, the Dutch will be aiming to avenge their World Cup defeat by fielding a full-strength team and hoping to outgun Menotti's side with their particular brand of pressure-football.

Oddly, the Dutch have a poor record in 'friendly' matches, and seem to reserve their best form for important games. Their advantage is the side has continued to play together regularly since the World Cup, whereas the match in Berne will be only the second outing for the Argentinian side, the first being against Bulgaria in Buenos Aires on April 25th (2-1).

GIANNI Boetto, the 28-year-old midfielder of Contarina in Northern Italy, is wanted by police in connection with the kidnap and assassination of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro. Signor Moro was murdered a year ago by a group calling themselves the Red Brigade. The Contarina players and officials were shocked at the news and even more shocked when Boetto promptly disappeared from his home.

EUSEBIO has decided to retire. Aged 37, the Black Panther, as he was nicknamed, has been playing in the United States for the last few years. Eusebio scored more than 1,000 goals in his career and will be remembered for his performances for Portugal in the 1966 World Cup Finals, when he was the tournament's top scorer. He will now start a coaching career.



Going for a drink . . .

POLAND'S 1974 World Cup star Robert Gadocha (above) is now reported to be playing in Brazil after several years of amazing globe-trotting.

Bayern Munich wanted to sign the left-footed striker after his impressive performance in the World Cup, but his Polish club, Legia Warsaw, refused to release him, only to change their minds a few months later when French club Nantes made an offer.

This sparked off an astonishing run of club-changing, and his latest move is picturesque to say the least. Apparently, he's signed for Brazilian provincial side Civita . . . for nothing! It seems Gadocha is "owned" by a Polish vodka company and their only demand is the Brazilian club give their vodka exclusive all-round publicity in their stadium! I'll drink to that . . .

Sacked after void game

THERE'S a rare old battle for the three promotion spots in the Spanish Second Division, with six teams in contention. Real Betis, with several international players in their line-up, have been firm favourites all season and have consistently topped the table.

But suddenly they were defeated 1-2 at home by relegation-threatened Real Jaen and dropped to fourth in the table. After the match, the Betis directors held an emergency meeting and decided to sack manager Garcia Traid.

Ironically, the Spanish F.A. has ruled the match must be replayed because Jaen fielded a goalkeeper who, under Spain's complicated 'loan' arrangements, wasn't eligible to play!

Even though Betis' humiliating defeat has been scrubbed from the records, poor old Garcia Traid hasn't been re-instated!

NEWS FLASHES

Real Madrid moved a point nearer the Spanish title with a 1-1 home draw against local rivals Atlético. It was their fourth meeting of the season, and all four matches ended as draws. The star of the latest game was referee Jiménez who somehow managed to show 11 yellow cards and one red card in a game that was never dirty . . .

When Juventus lost 1-0 to Ascoli recently, the goal was an own-goal by Italy's striker Roberto Bettega, the first of his career. Incidentally, Bettega is having a poor season — after 24 games he'd scored just seven goals.

THE first five-a-side World Cup tournament could well be introduced next year, according to Dr. Joao Havelange, president of FIFA.

Italian club Atlanta must have set some sort of record. In 23 games they have had nine players sent-off, and their manager, Gian Battista Rota, has also been shown the red card.

After 72 minutes in the St-Etienne—Stade Laval French First Division match, one of the linesmen had to leave the field injured. The referee called the two managers together and tossed a coin to decide which one should run the line for the last 18 minutes.

Rossi meets the Pope



"SO YOU'RE the famous Paolo Rossi? I've heard a lot about you. Tell me how you score so many goals — what's your secret?"

This was how His Holiness Pope John Paul II greeted Italy's top striker when his club, Lanerossi Vicenza made a trip to the Vatican.

"There's no secret Your Holiness," replied the Italian World Cup star. "You simply need good team-mates, a little luck, a little flair and above all the help of God . . ."

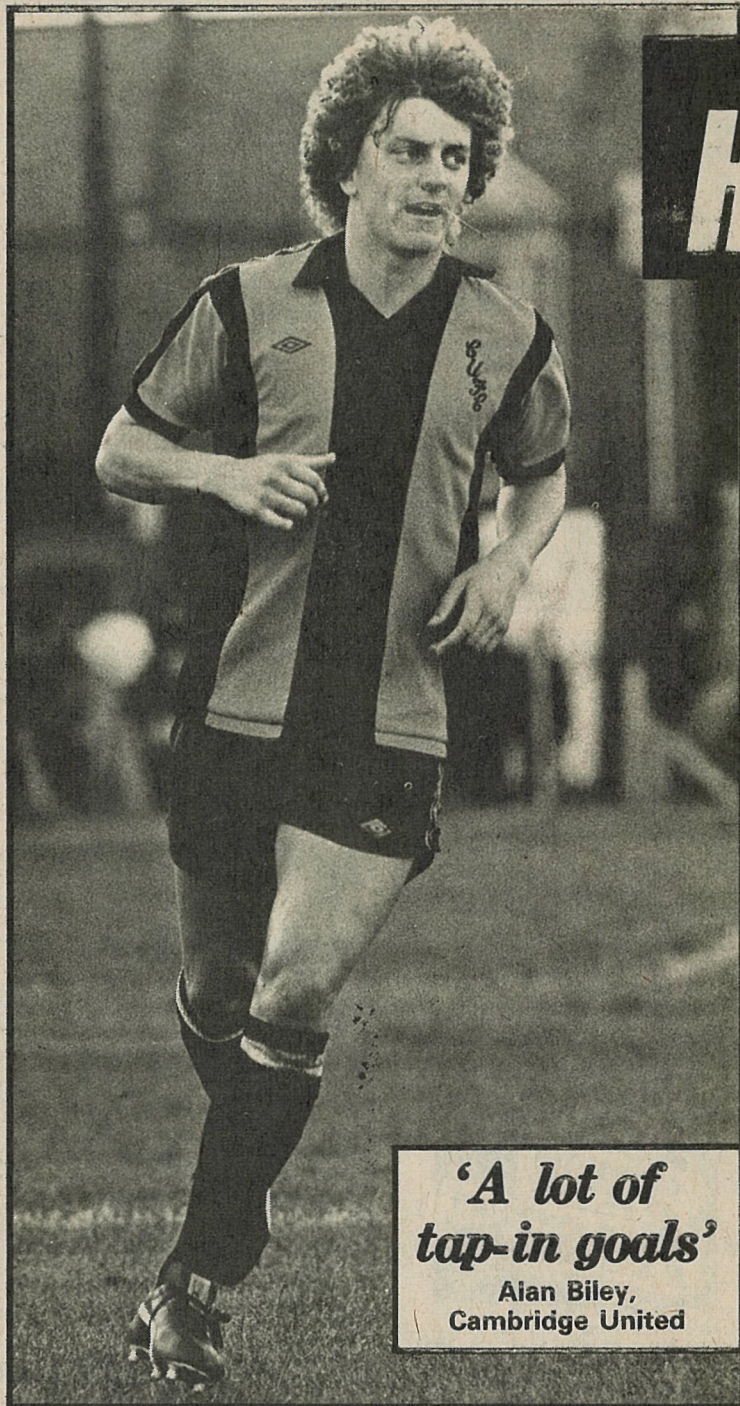
The Pope had been a great admirer of Rossi's performances in last year's World Cup and immediately singled him out to do the formal introductions to the rest of the squad.

The 22-year-old striker had to explain the meaning of one or two "specialised" words like "stopper", but after the audience Rossi explained how surprised he had been at the Pope's knowledge of football.

But while Rossi's meeting with Pope John Paul was capturing the headlines, a bigger story was lurking behind the scenes. Lanerossi have agreed to put Rossi on the transfer list at the end of the season in a bid to stabilise the club's precarious economic situation — and in spite of a "crazy price", there's no shortage of bidders.

Rossi feels sorry to leave modest Lanerossi, but admits he'd like to make an impact with one of the bigger clubs.

We asked a striker from **HOW DID YOUR**



**'A lot of
tap-in goals'**

Alan Biley,
Cambridge United

ALAN Biley has topped 20 goals in each of his three full seasons at Cambridge United — each, remarkably, played in a different division.

The Third and Fourth Division defences suffered in his first two seasons and this term, it's been Second Division goalkeepers who have got backache picking his shots out of the net.

Says Biley, 22: "I have got a lot more tap-in goals this year. In the Third and Fourth Divisions, I got a lot more spectacular efforts. Long-range headers and shots.

"I suppose I was always looking for the wonder goals down there. But I've matured as I've gone up the League and now I'm always trying to get into the box.

"The goalkeepers and defenders are a lot better, in any case, and you're not so likely to be successful with a shot from outside the penalty area.

"I got my first hat-trick this sea-

son, against Cardiff. That was a bit special, and so was the goal that completed my scoring — I burst through and thundered it with my left foot.

"At one time, I just used the left for standing on. But I broke my right leg the first season I was here, and it gave me a lot of time to work on the other one.

"I wouldn't describe myself as two-footed now, but I don't keep shuffling the ball over to my right foot anymore. If it's on my left, I wallop it.

"All this success has surprised me a bit because I've never considered myself as a goalscorer. Ron Atkinson brought me to Cambridge to play on the right wing, which is the position I played at Luton.

"But I didn't like it out there. And as long as the goals keep going in, I'm happy to stay in the middle. What I'd really like is to have a go at First Division defences now."

**'Scored an
amazing
variety'**

Alan Cork,
Wimbledon



WHEN Alan Cork agreed to join Fourth Division Wimbledon in February, 1978, it was his final fling at a League career.

He'd had a disappointing time at Derby after giving up his job with a building society, and went to Wimbledon with the thought that if things didn't work out, he could always return to his former work.

But he finished his first full season looking to top 30 goals, a remarkable effort.

Says Cork: "In my last three months at Derby, I was playing in the youth team. I had been in the reserve side, but Tommy Docherty didn't seem to like me that much.

"When I signed for Wimbledon, I went straight into the first team and I owe a lot to Dario Gradi, who was also with me at the Baseball Ground.

"He's given me my confidence back. If someone has faith in your ability, you start to believe in it yourself don't you?

"I've had an amazing variety of goals this season. I've scored in

just about every way there is — long range shots, volleys, tap-ins and even one or two with my head. Generally, I'm not that good with headers.

"The one that gave me most satisfaction was against Reading. I whacked it from about 25 yards out and it flew into the net for the winning goal. It was particularly satisfying because they were one of our promotion rivals, of course.

"Defenders have looked out for me a lot more in the second half of the season. But I've had an unbelievable time. They're a great bunch of blokes at Wimbledon and I'd rather be there than at Derby."

It has certainly been a remarkable first season of League football for a player who was turning out for the building society on Sunday mornings a few years back.

Says Cork, still only 20: "When Tommy Docherty gave me a free transfer, he said it was up to me to go and get another club and prove him wrong. I think I've done that."

each Football League Division:

GOAL-GETTING GO?

*'Figured more
in build-ups'*

Danny Westwood,
Gillingham



DANNY Westwood has found a lot of his goals this season have come in the later stages of a game.

The Gillingham striker says: "Once we worked our way into a promotion position, teams started marking man-to-man with a sweeper behind.

"So Ken Price, the other main striker, and myself had to wear them out before we had a chance of scoring. That's probably why a lot of our goals have come towards the end, when they've had enough."

Westwood is a 20 goal a season man. And if you top 20, he reckons you're earning your wages.

"The other main difference for me this season is I've figured a lot more in the build-ups to goals.

"In Tony Funnell, we've got someone who goes into the box for the knock-ins. So I'm able to lay

further back and do more towards making goals.

"I think I've improved in that department and it's given me a great deal of pleasure. But I wouldn't mind getting a few more knock-ins myself."

One of Westwood's most satisfactory efforts last season was against his old club Southend.

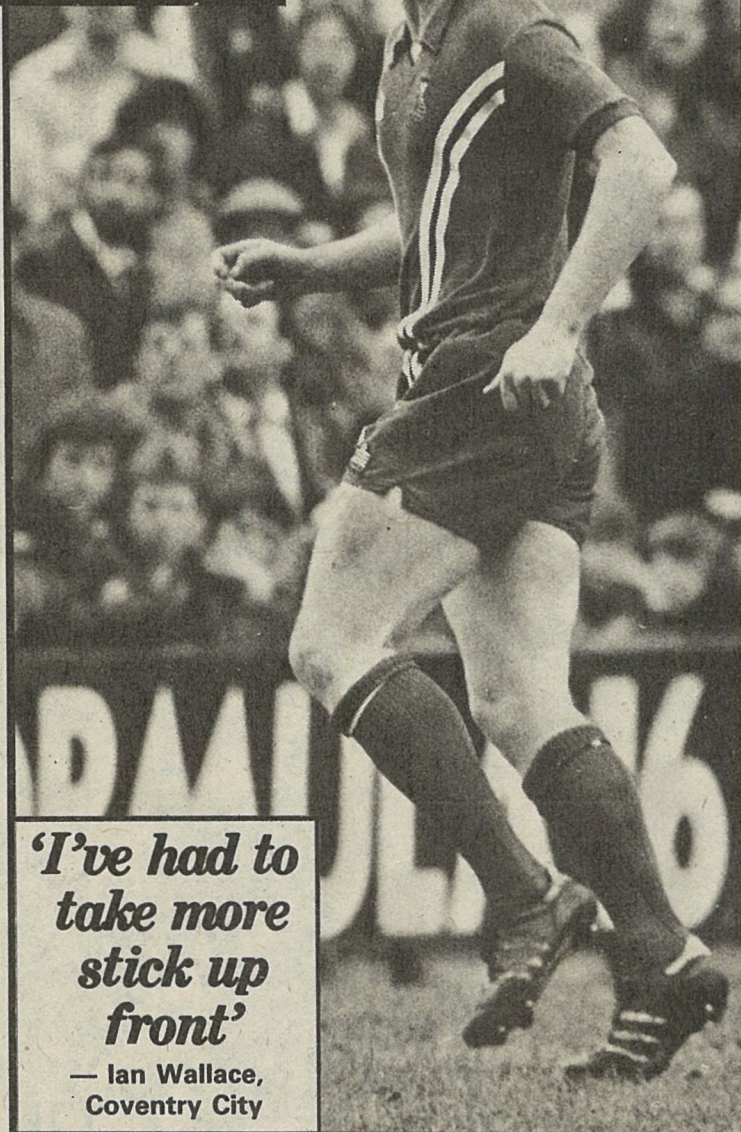
"I ran through and hit a cross shot into the far corner. It may have looked fortunate but scoring is about doing what is on.

"I got a nice lob over the goalkeeper in one match, too. I think most strikers regard that as the ultimate.

"Defenders have watched me a lot more closely this season. That's bound to happen when you get a reputation for banging in goals. But it hasn't worried me. It's flattering, really."

*'I've had to
take more
stick up
front'*

— Ian Wallace,
Coventry City



IT'S been a season in which strikers have literally been driving goalkeepers round the bend, according to Coventry's Ian Wallace.

Says Wallace: "With goalkeepers coming off their lines more to narrow the shooting angle, more goals are being scored with chips and swerve shots rather than through sheer power.

"Our coach Ron Wiley has been on at us to try those shots more and I finally managed to bend one past the 'keeper when we played Southampton. It wasn't exactly Pele-standard but it gave me more satisfaction than any other goal during the season.

"It was also the goal that completed my hat-trick. Only my second in the three years I've been here. But the other one was against Peter Shilton, so that ought to count double!

"Mick Ferguson keeps ribbing me because he managed three hat-

tricks in the 1977-78 season. But he was out most of the past campaign and I missed him more than anyone else in the team.

"We've got a good understanding up-front but I think we only played ten games together last season because of his injuries.

"That's probably why I haven't scored as many goals as I would have hoped for. I was aiming for over 20, but I haven't played up to my best, and the team struggled at times, as well.

"I don't think there's been a lot of difference in the type of goals I've scored. I always reckon that nine out of every ten I score will be inside the box.

"I've had one or two long-range efforts this season but it's in the box where I usually reckon to do the damage. I rely on sharpness more than anything else — and the occasional banana shot, of course!"



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Why THOMAS won't forget 1978-9

man. And such was their interest, that Rovers' manager Bobby Campbell immediately slapped a £300,000 fee on his head.

Last season, West Bromwich Albion, Coventry, Ipswich and Manchester United looked at him. This season, he has also been under the microscope from Leeds and West Ham. And doubtless there have been others.

Thomas, who comes from Caerphilly, joined Rovers after trials in Cardiff. He explains: "Rovers hold a Welsh nursery for promising young possibilities. Lots of Welsh lads do that and I joined the club as soon as I left school at 15.

"I made my first team debut at 17. I'll never forget it. We were playing at Charlton and I made a mistake after only five minutes which gave them a goal. I only parried a shot whereas I should have held it, and the loose ball was swept home. I felt awful, especially as we went on to lose 4-3 that day. But I didn't have much chance with the other goals!"

Thomas says he learned a great deal that day. "I soon discovered you can't afford slips like that in this class of football. One mistake and the ball is in the net; it's as simple as that."

But Thomas now accepts that errors are inevitable. "Any human is bound to make them at some stage, so you have to forget them and keep going. It's no good dropping your head if you make a mistake because you'll make more after that."

Recognition

Thomas won international recognition playing for Wales Under-18's against Iceland. Then he appeared in the Welsh Under-21 side against England in February. "We lost 1-0, but it was a marvellous experience for me," says Thomas. "You're playing with and against some of the best young players in Britain and that has to be good for you.

"Now, my ambition is to win plenty of full caps for Wales. I was on stand-by duty for Wales when they met West Germany on May 2

— number three behind Dai Davies and Glan Letheran. I'm not worried about instant promotion. If I'm good enough I will play for Wales, but if I'm not, I won't. It's as simple as that."

Rumours that Rovers might sell him for £300,000 brings a smile to his face. "It was flattering," he said. "But I'm not sure whether the boss was really serious. He was told some scouts had been watching me, and he said something like 'they'll have to pay over £300,000 for him'. Whether he was dead serious, I'm not sure.

"If I moved to a big club now, I could find myself stuck in the reserves and out in the cold at 19. Right now, I'm only interested in helping Rovers do well. I'm still learning."

It is surprising to his family, that Martin turned to soccer in the first place. His brother plays top class rugby for Cardiff, as their father did a few years back. Martin, himself, went to a rugby-playing school, so used to play rugby on Saturday mornings for the school and then go on to play soccer for a local boys' club, in the afternoons.

It's Rovers' gain Thomas chose football because down in the West, Rovers reckon they have a young man who will go all the way to the top in big time football.

Why DAINES wants to forget 1978-9

A THOROUGHLY miserable season. That's just about the right summing up to describe the 1978-79 campaign for Spurs goalkeeper Barry Daines.

A season which began with such promise ended in despondency after months of frustration and injury. It couldn't have been much worse for the 27-year-old Daines.

Now, as the summer approaches Barry is thinking hard about the way ahead. But first, he has to shake off the effects and memories of a season spent almost constantly in the treatment room.

'Snapped ligaments'

"I was injured in training in September," says Barry. "That was a bad start. If you're hurt in a match, you accept it, but a bad one in training is harder to accept. I snapped ligaments in my ankle and it wouldn't heal properly.

"It took four to five months to get right and I wasn't in contention again until early in the New Year. Then I had back trouble and other parts of my body started to ache.

"I played about seven or eight games in the reserves because Mark Kendall was in the first team position by then. Then, when I did get back in April, I was injured against Queens Park Rangers. That

was only my second game back in the big time and I pulled a groin muscle. That was the end of my season."

Unlucky Daines missed an exciting season at White Hart Lane.

The arrival of the Argentinians, Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa, put new life into the famous North London club. Spurs were newly promoted to the First Division yet they never looked like having the worries of a relegation campaign, thanks to the ability of their expensive imports.

Spurs were not consistent but considering it was their first season back in Division One, they did remarkably well. And the attraction to two Argentinian World Cup players from abroad, made them the biggest drawing power in the land in away games.

"When you are injured you just don't feel part of it very much, although the other lads try to cheer you up. But it's very different; you feel a bit like a stranger looking in from the outside. I got a bit fed up with it, when it kept on going wrong for me. I watched some matches but that tended to make it worse," he explains.

Daines was also worried about the goalkeeping position at Spurs. Young Mark Kendall took his chance well and when Spurs bought Milija Aleksic from Luton



to boost their goalkeeping resource, Daines' future was bleak.

"I hope my future is still going to be at White Hart Lane. The club obviously needed someone as I was out, although Mark did ever so well."

By a strange irony Daines played one of the best games of his career shortly before his injury in the early part of the season. He explains: "I played up at West Brom in a League match and everything came right for me that day. I played really well and we won 1-0 although we were under a lot of pressure. I kept a lot of shots out and was praised for it; so that built up my confidence no end. Then, two weeks later, I did the injury in training and that was it. It was sickening."

Daines' verdict on Spurs from

the sidelines? "People said we would be lucky to survive in the First Division, when we won promotion but as soon as we bought the Argentinians, everyone expected us to win something. That was a lot to live up to.

"The side played really well at times and didn't get anything out of the match in terms of points. In a lot of matches, we played ever so well in one half; not so well in the other. That's all down to consistency and that is a quality every side needs.

"If you look at all the top teams, the ones that do well are always consistent.

"As far as I'm concerned, I just want to forget the season and get completely fit during the summer. I hope next term will be a fresh start for me."

THE BEST IN BRI

THE 1979 British Championship gets under way this weekend and looks like being one of the most open for some time. Ron Greenwood's improving England side are full of confidence . . . Scotland under Jock Stein must be respected . . . Wales could be the "dark horses" . . . while the enterprising Northern Ireland team will be good value.



Tony Currie has never really established himself in the England team, but under Ron Greenwood the skillful Leeds midfielder could command a regular place.



Manchester United defender Jimmy Nicholl can play either full-back or sweeper, which gives Northern Ireland boss Danny Blanchflower more variety with his back-four.

ITAIN!

RIGHT . . . Wales winger
Carl Harris and Trevor
Brooking of England
challenge for the ball.
BELOW . . . Manchester
City and Scotland
schemer Asa Hartford.



BELOW . . . Nottingham Forest's
goalscoring midfield-man Martin
O'Neill of Northern Ireland.

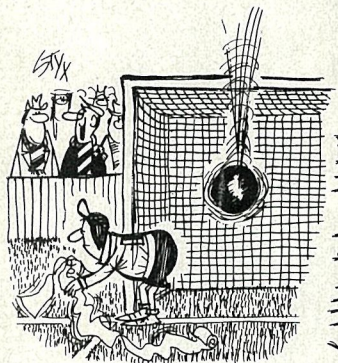


ABOVE . . . "King
Kenny" —
Liverpool and
Scotland fans will
tell you Kenny
Dalglish is the
most complete
player in Britain.
Only Kevin Keegan
fans would
disagree.

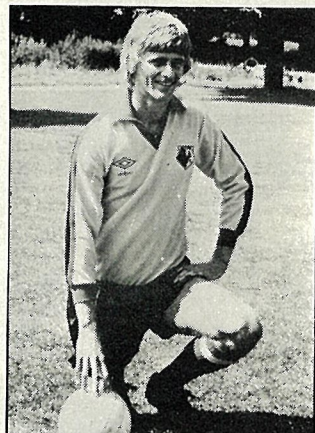
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Darned silly thing tapping Cast Iron Kelly on the chest — you've dislocated your finger"



"Their old goalie's got a bit of a kick, hasn't he?"

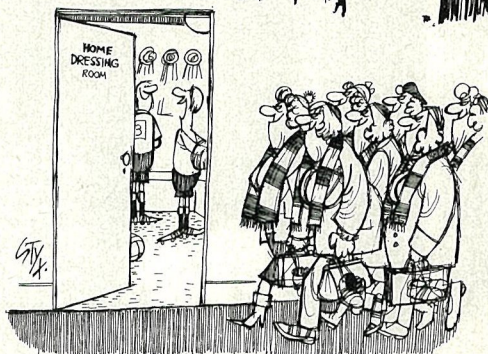


This week Watford's ROSS JENKINS selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"He likes to create an atmosphere when it comes to a big match"

"Sent-off our No. 9 — booked our No. 2 — disallowed a perfectly good goal then gave them a penalty that wasn't"

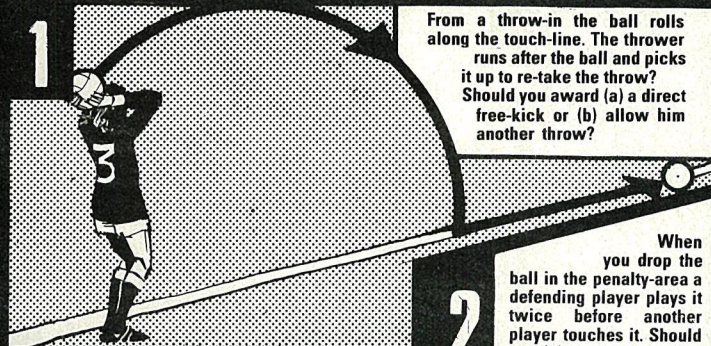


"Don't forget, chaps — this charity match against a ladies' team — treat the little darlings carefully"

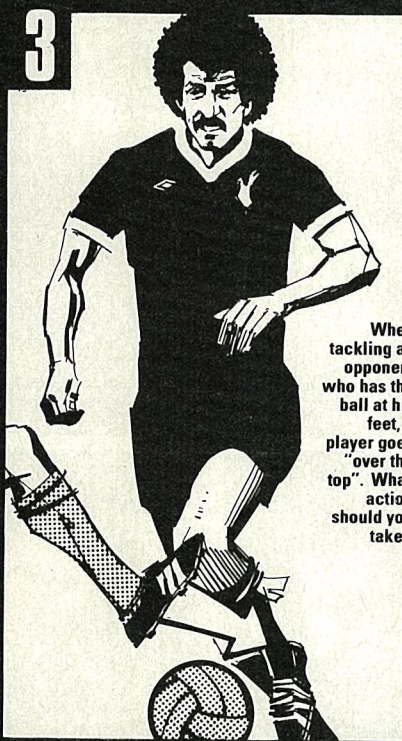


YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS



1 From a throw-in the ball rolls along the touch-line. The thrower runs after the ball and picks it up to re-take the throw? Should you award (a) a direct free-kick or (b) allow him another throw?



3 When tackling an opponent who has the ball at his feet, a player goes "over the top". What action should you take?



2 When you drop the ball in the penalty-area a defending player plays it twice before another player touches it. Should you (a) award a penalty, (b) an indirect free-kick, (c) drop the ball again, or (d) play on?



4 A player is injured and substituted. Two substitutes per team are allowed in this match. Later, the injured player wishes to return as the second substitute. Can you allow this?



5 A goalkeeper holding the ball pushes an opponent in the chest with the ball. Should you award (a) an indirect free-kick or (b) a direct free-kick or (c) a penalty?

ANSWERS

1 Award a direct free-kick (a). 2 An indirect free-kick (b). 3 Award a penalty or direct free-kick and send off the player. This in the football world is the worst foul in the game, and it is one that managers say some referees don't always see. 4 No. 5 A penalty (b). Although it is very difficult to interpret, referees should watch very closely that keepers do not take advantage of their position.

'SPANISH DEFENDERS DON'T FRIGHTEN ME'

says **ALLAN SIMONSEN**

Danish. 26 years old. Five feet six inches tall. Blond. Seemingly fragile. West German League Champion with Borussia Mönchengladbach in 1975, 1976 and 1977. U.E.F.A. Cup winner. Beaten Finalist in the 1977 European Cup when he scored a fine goal in the 1-3 defeat by Liverpool. Elected European Footballer of the Year in the same year. That's a quick precis of Allan Simonsen's impressive visiting card. But that exciting Borussia side, painstakingly built by the current 1.F.C. Cologne manager Hennes Weisweiler, has been dismantled piece by piece as the club tries to keep its head above water financially. Henning Jensen, Uli Stielike and Rainer Bonhof are already picking up pots of pesetas in Spain, and now Simonsen has followed suit with a lucrative move to join Hans Krankl and Co. at Barcelona.

THE Barcelona president, Josep Lluís Núñez, made the first approach last July, and I promised them first option. The negotiations turned out to be quite protracted, and several other clubs, like Hamburger SV and Eintracht Braunschweig came in with offers, but I'm delighted to be going to one of the top club sides in the world. It really is a new high-point in my career," says Simonsen.

In the meantime, Barcelona had been putting out feelers in other directions, and it was only when they failed to sign Argentina's wonder-boy midfielder player Diego Maradona that they finally decided to release Johan Neeskens and sign Simonsen in his place.

"It's a pity Neeskens is leaving because he's a world-class player. But Spanish regulations only permit two foreigners and, anyway, a top team like Barcelona should be able to cope with his absence without too much trouble."

News of Simonsen's signing has been well-received in the Catalan capital, though some fans feel he may prove to be incompatible with Hans Krankl, and are aghast that his arrival will almost certainly keep local discovery Carrasco out of the side.

"I don't foresee any problems on this score. Hans Krankl and I are completely different types of player and I certainly can't see any clash of personalities on the pitch. He's an out-and-out striker, an area man, whereas I tend to operate much more on the wings. I know I score a fair number of goals, but really I'm more of a play-maker than a striker."

"As for keeping other players out of the team, this is something the new manager must work out. I can play on either wing or in mid-field, so he'll have a lot of different permutations to choose from."

Of course, the other question marks hanging over Simonsen's future are his ability to adapt to Spain's very different atmosphere and style of play, not to mention his ability to stand up to the special attention dished out by Spanish defenders to all foreign superstars.

"Being realistic, I think it will inevitably take me a while to adapt. Fortunately I've visited my friend Henning Jensen a few times in Madrid, and he's given me some very useful advice. But I have the advantage of having gone through all this before!

"I was very 'green' when Weis-

weiler brought me to Germany from Vejle in 1973, and it was the best part of two years before I was ready for a regular first team place. Of course, I've played a lot of football since then and I don't think it'll take me two years to settle in Barcelona."

"As for Spanish defenders, they don't frighten me. The defenders in the Bundesliga aren't exactly made of cotton-wool! I think one of the most important things is to learn Spanish quickly so I can communicate with my team-mates, and I'll be getting on with this as soon as possible."

Even so, Simonsen is sometimes accused of being too fragile, too soft, or too much of a "good boy".

"That makes me laugh. I'm certainly a very quiet person, and very even-tempered. I always concentrate 100 per cent on playing football and if what they want is for me to deliberately injure another player, that's something I'll never do."

"I think the only times I get worked up during games are usually because of poor refereeing. Even so, I've never had more than two yellow cards in one season, and they've invariably been for protesting. I would say I'm a fairly disciplined sort of player, and I don't think I'll have any problems in the Spanish League."

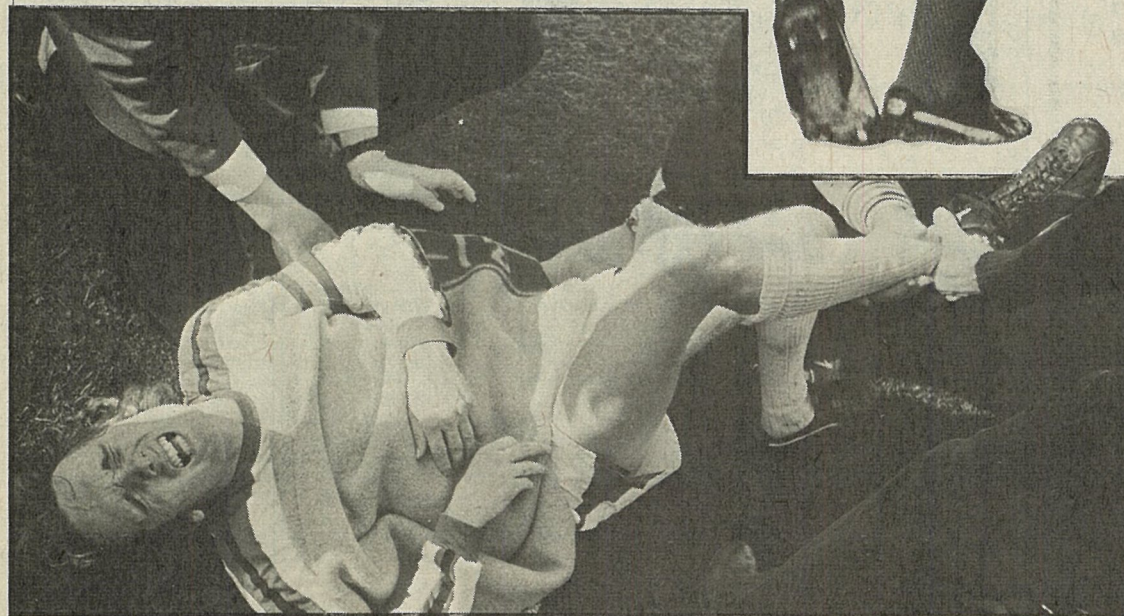
Delay

There's mystery surrounding the exact arithmetic of Simonsen's transfer. Barcelona have announced they've paid only £500,000 while the German Press have been quoting figures as high as £1,250,000. Sources in Barcelona also claim the lengthy negotiations were prolonged by Allan insisting on having his slice of the deal paid in U.S. dollars directly to a bank in Denmark — and there was a delay while the appropriate currency movements were given the official go-ahead (if, indeed, they were).

What is certain is he will receive a signing-on fee of £105,000 a year plus £7,500 in salary and hefty match bonuses — all of which represents a powerful motive for the uprooting of his family, wife Anette and baby daughter Camelia, to Spain.

"Well, apart from the money, I needed a rest from the Bundesliga. I've won a lot of trophies and gone just about as far as I can go with Borussia and I needed a change, new incentives. I like the idea of working in Spain, simply because I enjoy the country and I think the level of club football is quite high, even though the Spaniards haven't done a lot on the international scene in recent years. My three-year contract will take me up to 1982, and I think I'll almost certainly head back for Denmark after that. It's still my favourite country."

Simonsen in agony after a hefty tackle in West Germany ... but he's not bothered by the traditionally tough Spanish defenders.



WAS 1978-79 the worst of my career? You bet it was. In fact, it was a total disaster for me and Derby County.

I kicked-off last August with so much optimism about the future. I said in SHOOT at the time I was sure the club would do well, I'd score lots of goals and regain my place in the England team. I was so confident that it's almost too embarrassing to talk about it now.

As you know I've been haunted by a knee injury that threatened my career and the club slipped from one nightmare to another that almost ended in relegation.

It's ironic my injury should have happened shortly after scoring Derby's Second Round League Cup winner at Leicester City.

I twisted knee ligaments, finally had to have a cartilage operation, and then aggravated the injury in training after making a brief comeback appearance as substitute at Q.P.R.

One man doesn't make a team, and my enforced absence certainly wasn't the cause of Derby's decline this term.

A whole series of injuries to key men, plus manager Tommy Docherty's rebuilding plans, contributed to the club's lack of success.

All teams going through a transitional period need time to settle down. New players have to adjust to the change of style and environment.

The Doc's main problem is he is unable to spend really big money

on top class players. We just haven't the resources to compete with the likes of Liverpool, Manchester United or Arsenal in the transfer market.

He has to introduce youngsters and hope they eventually make the grade, or buy talented "unknowns" and groom them. And that's no disrespect to Steve Wicks who arrived at the Baseball Ground a few months ago from Chelsea.

Although I'd say our present squad is as good, if not better, than many in the First Division it can obviously be strengthened in one or two positions.

Even Liverpool manager Bob Paisley is always striving to enlist better players than he already has at Anfield.

Several people I've spoken to put the blame for Derby's poor League season firmly on Tommy Docherty's shoulders. They believe his personal problems off the field have had a bad effect on the team.

Let me put the record straight once and for all. The Doc's private life has not even been mentioned in the dressing-room. It has nothing at all to do with us. All the adverse publicity united the lads and made them even more determined than ever to do well.

There's been the usual speculation as to The Doc's future at the Baseball Ground. Well, I don't know any more than you do and it's certainly not my place to comment on that subject here.

The Gaffer's future is his business

and our directors' . . . not mine.

Knowing The Doc, though, I'm sure if he was to be given the big E he wouldn't be out of work for long.

He'd simply shrug his shoulders and start again somewhere else . . . it's as simple as that.

My own future at the Baseball Ground has also been the subject of speculation.

At one time, when I came out of hospital and my injury wasn't responding as well to treatment as I'd hoped, and I was having problems selling and then buying another house, I may have thought perhaps a change of scenery might be beneficial to myself and the club.

But at no time did I ask for a move. At the moment my only thoughts are directed towards

Derby and proving I can do the job Tommy Docherty bought me for.

At present I've made only around 20 first team appearances for The Rams, so I've a lot to prove to the fans as well.

But despite all the setbacks the supporters have had to endure this term there have been some bright moments for them . . . and me.

One of my personal highlights was returning to the team against Wolves at the Baseball Ground on November 4th and scoring in Derby's 4-1 victory — our biggest of the season.

Scoring that goal lifted a big fear from my mind. I knew then I could come back after a serious knock and still do my job. I realised at that moment my career wasn't over.

That win over Wolves boosted



Jonathon Clarke tries to find a way past Bristol City at Ashton Gate. Rams lost 1-0.

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CALLERS WELCOME



John Duncan blasts home the first goal in Derby's 2-1 victory at Man. City.

'My one and only trophy of a disastrous season'

my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

Derby's confidence and we won our next two League matches — 2-1 away at Man. City and 2-1 at home v. Birmingham.

I honestly thought the team had turned the corner and we were on our way up the table, but then Coventry beat us 4-2 at Highfield

Road and we lost 1-0 at Bristol City. I came on as substitute in that game at Ashton Gate on December 2nd.

Derby didn't win another League game until February 3rd when we beat Southampton at The Dell, 2-1.

That was a good result considering a couple of weeks previously Rams suffered their most humiliating moment of the campaign ... losing 3-0 to Second Division Preston in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup.

Derby just didn't get going. I twisted the knee again and went into hospital for my operation a few days later.

Really the season died for Derby at Deepdale and we seemed to go from bad to worse after that.

Fortunately, I had a few enjoyable moments off the park during my spell on the sidelines to keep me reasonably cheerful ... like visiting the kids in a Manchester hospital with other players just before Christmas. The looks on their faces when we distributed toys and other goodies made me realise how fortu-

nate I was, despite all I had suffered throughout the term.

Then over Easter, I was one of 15 British sporting personalities invited to take part in the first Eley Celebrity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Sutton Gun Club, Birmingham.

My "team" of footballers —

Jackie Charlton, Mike Channon and I — beat the cricketers (Ian Botham, Mike Hendrick and Denis Breakwell), the jockeys (Brian Taylor, Jimmy Lindley and Dave Bicks), the show jumpers (Ted Edgar, Tim Grubb and Malcolm Pyrah) and sports commentators (Gareth Edwards, Richard Pitman and Tony Gubba), to take first prize.

At least I have one trophy to put on my sideboard this year ... even though it is only a pewter mug.

But back to football and England's chances in the British Championship which starts this weekend.

Even though some of the players in Ron Greenwood's squad have been hit by injuries, loss of form, or are in dispute with their clubs, I still reckon they will be strong enough to account for Northern Ireland and Wales.

I'll also back them to send Scotland packing in the big one at Wembley on Saturday week (May 26th).

Yes, England will go on their close-season tour to Bulgaria, Sweden and Austria as British Champions. Wish I could be with them.

Oh Well, there's always next season.

Gordon Hill

Sharpshooters Gordon, Jackie Charlton and Mike Channon after their triumph at Easter.



RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

(Continued)

SCOTTISH PREMIER

DUNDEE UTD. (0) 2 (Addison 2)
MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Irvine) 5,655
 Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Stewart, Stark, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Addison, Sturrock, Dodds (Holt), Kirkwood (Robertson), Payne.
 Motherwell: Rennie, McLeod, Wark, Carberry, Dempsey, Stevens, Smith, Wilson (Clinging), Larnach, Irvine, Donnelly.

HIBS (2) 2 (Stewart, Rae)
CELTIC (0) 1 (Glavin pen.) 16,000
 Hibs: McArthur, Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Rae, MacLeod, Campbell, Callachan, Brown.
 Celtic: Latchford; McGrain, Filippi, Aitken, Edvaldsson, Conroy (McCluskey), Provan (Lennox), Glavin, Davidson, Burns, Doyle.

MORTON (1) 2 (Ritchie pen., Thomson)
HEARTS (1) 2 (Busby, Gibson pen.) 6,000
 Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, Thomson, McNeill, Miller, Hutchison, Tormie (Russell), Ritchie.
 Hearts: Allan, Kidd, Brown, Liddle, Jeffries, Shaw, Gibson, Fraser, O'Connor, Busby, Robertson (Black).

PARTICK (1) 3 (McAdam 2, Melrose)
ST. MIRREN (0) 1 (Bone) 5,000
 Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Whittacker, Anderson, Campbell, Gibson, Houston, Melrose, McAdam, Love, Park (O'Hara).
 St. Mirren: Thomson, Young, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Abercrombie, McGarvey (Torrance).

MONDAY, APRIL 2

SECOND DIVISION

SHEFF. UTD. (1) 3 (Finnieston, Anderson 2)
WEST HAM (0) 0 17,720
 Sheff. Utd: Conroy, Speight, Tibbott, Kenworthy, McPhail, Matthews, Anderson, Rioch, Finnieston, Sabella, Hamson.

West Ham: Parkes; Lampard, Brush, McDowell, Martin, Bonds, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Pike, Robson.
WREXHAM (1) 1 (Jones)
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Berry) 7,518
 Wrexham: Davies; Cegielski, Dwyer, Jones, Roberts, Giles, Shinton, Sutton, Fox (McNeil), Whittle, Cartwright.
 Charlton: Wood; Warman, Campbell, Gritt, Shipperley, Shaw, Powell, Hales (Berry), Robinson, Madden, Churchouse.

THIRD DIVISION

COLCHESTER (0) 2 (Lee, Wignall)
CARLISLE (1) 1 (Lumby) 2,608
 Colchester: Walker, Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Gough, Packer, Foley, Dyer, Lee, Allinson.
 Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, McCartney, Macdonald, Tait, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Lumby, Kemp, Ludlam.

SOUTHEND (0) 1 (Pountney)
WATFORD (0) 0 11,406
 Southend: Cawston; Hadley (Pountney), Yates, Stead, Cusack, Moody, Morris, Polycarpou, Parker, Dugdale, Otulakowski.
 Watford: Rankin; Stirr, Pritchett, Booth, Bolton, Garner, Mercer, Blissett, Jenkins, Joslyn, Train.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

FIRST DIVISION

ARSENAL (0) 1 (Nelson)
COVENTRY (1) 1 (Nelson o.g.) 30,091
 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Gattin, Sunderland, Stapleton, Healey (Walford), Rix.
 Coventry: Sealey; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Coop, Nardiello, Blair, Hunt, Powell, Hutchison.

BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Gallagher)
IPSWICH (1) 1 (Muhren) 12,499
 Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Towers, Gallagher, Tarantini, Ainscow, Buckley, Calderwood, Dillon, Barrowclough.
 Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Butcher, Beattie, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Woods.

BOLTON (1) 3 (Morgan, Whatmore, Jones)
EVERTON (1) 1 (Ross pen.) 27,263
 Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowling, Worthington, Smith.
 Everton: Wood; Barton, Jones, Lyons, Todd, Ross, Dobson, King, Telfer, Kidd, Thomas.

BRISTOL C. (0) 2 (Mabbutt 2)
Q.P.R. (0) 0 15,687
 Bristol C.: Shaw; Sweeney, Cooper, Mann, Rodgers, Hunter, Tainton, Ritchie, Royle, Mabbutt, Meyer.
 Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement, Wallace, Roeder, Howe, Hollins, Shanks, Busby, Walsh, McGee, Goddard.

WOLVES (1) 3 (Richards, Daley, Hibbitt)
TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Jones 2) 19,819
 Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Rafferty, Richards, Carr.
 Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, McAllister, Holmes, Lacy, Perryman, Pratt, Taylor, Jones, Hoddle, Villa.

SECOND DIVISION

OLDHAM 0
C. PALACE 0
 Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Edwards, Keegan, Hicks, Hurst, Halom, Stainrod, Young, Chapman, Heaton.
 Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Sansom, Kember, Cannon, Gilbert, Nicholas, Murphy, Sealy, Walsh, Smillie (Fenwick).

THIRD DIVISION

PLYMOUTH (1) 3 (Tucker o.g., Harrison, Clarke)
BURY (0) 0 4,728
 Plymouth: Hodge; McNeil, Uzzell, Clarke, James, Harrison, Johnson, Megson, Binney, Trusson, Rogers.
 Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Stanton, Ritson, Tucker (Madden), Whitehead, Lugg, Wilson, Beamish, Gregory, Taylor.

SHEFF. WED. (0) 1 (Nimmo)
MANSFIELD (2) 2 (Saxby, Austin) 11,065
 Sheff. Wed: Turner; Shirliff, Grant, Mullen, Pickering, Johnson, Curran, Porterfield, Fleming (Nimmo), Lowey, Hornsby.
 Mansfield: New; Dawkins, Foster (B), Curtis (Wood), Saxby, Bird, Hamilton, Carter, Austin, Martin, Goodwin.

SWINDON (0) 1 (Rowland)
EXETER (0) 1 (Sims) 7,923
 Swindon: Allan; Trollope, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood, Stroud, Miller, Carter, Rowland, Mayes, Kamara.
 Exeter: Main; Templeman, Hore, Randall, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Rogers, Sims, Delve, Hatch.

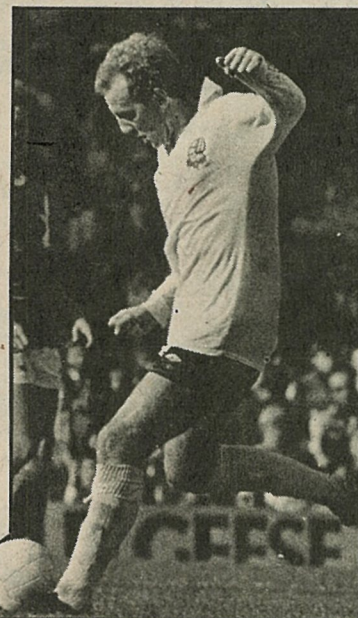
TRANMERE (0) 1 (Evans)
SWANSEA (2) 2 (James, Waddle) 3,499
 Tranmere: Johnson; Flood, Mathias, Parry (Craven), Bramhall, Evans, O'Neil, Postlewhite, Kerr, Thomas, McAuley.
 Swansea: Crudgington; Phillips, Bartley, Smith, Stevenson, Boersma, Attley, James, Curtis, Waddle, Callaghan.

FOURTH DIVISION

BARNLEY (1) 3 (Clarke, McCarthy, Riley)
DONCASTER (0) 0 12,082
 Barnley: Springett; Collins, Chambers, Pugh, Saunders, McCarthy, Little, Clarke, Graham, Miller (A.R.), Bell (Riley).
 Doncaster: Peacock; Lister, Snodin, Meagan, Bradley, Olney, Pugh, Lally, Habbin (Cannell), Bentley, Owen.

DARLINGTON (0) 2 (Peachey 2)
ALDERSHOT (1) 1 (Needham) 1,267
 Darlington: Burleigh; Nattrass, Cochrane, Hadley, Craig, Crosson, Lyons, Wann, Walsh, Ferguson, Peachey.
 Aldershot: Johnson; Scott, Howitt, Dixon (Green), Youlden, Edwards, Crosby, Longhorn, Needham, Dungworth, McGregor.

GRIMSBY (0) 1 (Brolly)
PORT VALE (0) 0 7,815



Neil Whatmore was on the mark for Bolton against Everton.

Grimsby: Batch; Moore (D), Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton, Crombie, Brolly, Ford, Liddell, Lester, Cumming.
 Port Vale: Dance; Hawkins, Griffiths, Beech, Delgado, Bentley, Sinclair, Farrell, Wright, Todd, Bromage.

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Trainer)
TORQUAY (0) 0 1,112
 Halifax: Kilner; Hutt, Dunleavy, Smith, Trainer Sidebottom, Firth, Kennedy, Campbell (Mountford), Johnson, Loska.
 Torquay: Turner; Twitchin, Ritchie, Green, Darke (Murphy), Dunne, Davies, Lawrence, Cooper, Wilson, Coffill.

HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 (Smart o.g.)
WIGAN (1) 1 (Houghton) 2,081
 Hartlepool: Richardson; Smith (G), Gorry, Harding, Goldthorpe, Ayre, Linacre, Houchen, Crumplin, Larkin (Lawrence), Loadwick.
 Wigan: Brown; Curtis, Smart, Gore, Ward, Fretwell, Corrigan, Wright, Houghton, Moore, Purdie.

NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Froggatt)
YORK (0) 0 1,628
 Northampton: Jayes; Geidmintis, Mead, Saunders, Robertson, Farrington, Williams, Matthews, McCaffrey, Reilly, Froggatt.
 York: Neenan; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Loggie (Stronach), McDonald, Stanforth.

ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Jones, Scott)
BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Butler M.) 1,136
 Rochdale: Felgate; Hart, Snookes, Creamer, Scott, Taylor, Esser, Scaife, Jones, O'Loughlin, Owen.
 Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Miller, Brown (R), Benjafield, Borthwick, MacDougall, Butler (M), Lennard, Johnson (Massey).

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Couch, Bloomer)
PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 (Garwood 2) 1,535
 Scunthorpe: Crawford; O'Donnell, Peacock (Davy), Oates, Deere, Hall, Grimes, Kilmore, Bloomer Kavanagh, Cough.
 Portsmouth: Mellor; Ellis, Milligan, Denyer, Foster, Davey, Pullar, Wilson, Garwood, Showers, Bryant (Lathan).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

F.A. CUP (Semi-Final replay)

LIVERPOOL (0) 0
MAN. UTD. (0) 1 (Greenhoff J) at Goodison Park 53,069
 Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Hughes, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Johnson (Case), Highways, McDermott, Souness.
 Man. Utd.: Bailey; Nicholl, Albiston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Jordan, Macari (Ritchie), Thomas.

FIRST DIVISION

CHELSEA (0) 1 (Langley)
DERBY (0) 1 (McFarland) 10,682
 Chelsea: Borota; Wilkins (G), Stride, Bannon, Droy, Nutton, Harris, Wilkins (R), Frost, Langley, Britton (Fillery).
 Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Daly, McFarland, Wicks, Carter (Caskey), Powell, Greenwood, Moreland, Crawford.

NOTTM. FOREST (1) 4 (Evans o.g., Woodcock, Francis, O'Neill)
ASTON VILLA (0) 0 27,056
 Nottm. F.: Shilton; Anderson, Bowyer, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill, Francis, Woodcock, Robertson.
 Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Gregory, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Craig, Little, Gray, Copley, Swain.

W.B.A. (2) 4 (Trewick, Regis, Mills, Summerfield)
MAN. CITY (0) 0 22,314
 W.B.A. Godden; Batson (Summerfield), Statham, Trewick, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Mills, Regis, Cantello, Cunningham.
 Man. C.: Corrigan; Donachie, Power, Henry, Booth, Futcher (P), Channon, Viljoen, Silkman, Hartford, Palmer.

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKBURN (0) 0
BRISTOL R. (1) 2 (White, Williams) 8,554
 Blackburn: Ramsbottom; Rathbone, Bailey, Coughlin, Parkin, Fazackerley, Brotherton, Fowler, Craig, Round (Garner), McKenzie.
 Bristol R.: Thomas; Jones, Bater, Aitken, Taylor, Emmanuel; Dennehy, Williams, White, Stanforth, Hendrie.

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Seasman, Walker)
LEICESTER (0) 0 4,758
 Millwall: Cuff; Donaldson, Sparrow, Chambers, Kitchener, Blyth, O'Callaghan (Mehmet), Seasman, Mitchell, Walker, Chatterton.
 Leicester: Wallington; Goodwin, Rofe, O'Neill, May, Kelly, Peake (Ridley), Williams, Henderson, Buchanan, Smith.

NEWCASTLE (2) 4 (Withe, Barton, Shoulder, Connolly)
PRESTON (2) 3 (Robinson 2, Bruce) 12,157
 Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Blackley, Martin, Barton, Mitchell, Shoulder, Cassidy, Withe, Hibbitt, Connolly.
 Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Cameron, Bell, Baxter, O'Riordan, Coleman, Halesgrave, Robinson, Potts (Thomson), Bruce.

STOKE (0) 2 (Smith, Randall)
FULHAM (0) 0 15,243
 Stoke: Jones; Dodd, Scott, Kendall, Smith, Doyle, Randall, Irvine, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Richardson.
 Fulham: Peyton; Evans, Strong, Lock, Money, Gale, Davies, Beck, Guthrie, Kitchen, Margerrison.

THIRD DIVISION

CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Flavell)
HULL (2) 2 (Edwards, Galvin) 3,003
 Chesterfield: Letharan; Flavell, O'Neill, Hepolette, Cottam, Prophet, Kowalski, Moss, Fern, Salmons Walker (Simpson).
 Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, Skipper, Hawker, Croft, Haigh, Roberts, Horswill, Edwards, Banister, Galvin.

LINCOLN (0) 3 (Sunley, Cockerill, Ward)
ROTHERHAM (0) 0 3,347
 Lincoln: Grotier; Hubbard, Laybourne, Fleming, Cross, Cooper, Guest, Ward, Sunley, Harford, Cockerill.
 Rotherham: McAlister; Forrest, Breckin, Stancliffe, Green, Flynn, Finney, Phillips, Gwyther, Carr, Crawford.

OXFORD (0) 0
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Shrubb) 4,943
 Oxford: Burton; Taylor, Fogg, Briggs, Bodell, Duncan, McGrogan, Jeffrey, Berry (Sweetzer), Seacole, Hodgson.
 Brentford: Bond; Fraser, Tucker, McNichol, Kruse, Glover, Carlton, Shrubb, Smith (Alder), McCulloch, Phillips.

FOURTH DIVISION

BRADFORD C. (0) 1 (Dolan pen.)
WIMBLEDON (0) 0 2,701
 Bradford C.: Smith; Podd, Watson, Reaney (Jackson), Baines, Wood, Robertson, Dolan, Bates, McNiven, Hutchins.

Wimbledon: Goddard; Perkins, Haverson, Galliers, Galvin, Cunningham, Leslie (Denny), Briley, Knowles, Cork, Ketteridge.

HUDDERSFIELD 0 STOCKPORT 0

Huddersfield: Starling; Brown, Sandercock, Holmes, Hanvey, Sutton, Fletcher, Hart, Armstrong, Robins.

Stockport: Lawson; Thorpe, Rutter, Edwards, Prudham, Armstrong, Henson, Summerbee, Bradd, Halford, Lee.

SCOTTISH CUP (Semi-Final)

PARTICK (0) 0 RANGERS (0) 0 (at Hampden Park)

Partick: Rough; McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, Anderson, Gibson, O'Hara (Huston), Melrose, McAdam, Love, Park.

Rangers: McCloy; Jardine, Dawson, Johnstone, Jackson, MacDonald, McLean, Russell, Urquhart, Smith, Cooper.

SCOTTISH PREMIER

HEARTS (1) 2 (Shaw, O'Connor) DUNDEE UTD. (0) 0

Hearts: Allan; Kidd, Brown, Liddell, Jeffries, Shaw, Gibson, Fraser, O'Connor, Busby (Black), Robertson.

Dundee Utd: McAlpine; Stewart, Stark, Philip (Kirkwood), Hegarty, Narey, Addison, Sturrock, Fleming, Holt, Robinson.

HIBS (0) 0 ST. MIRREN (1) 2 (McGarvey, Stark)

Hibs: McArthur; Brazil, Duncan, Bremner, Stewart, McNamara, Rae, MacLeod, Campbell, Callaghan, Brown (Lambie).

St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Munro, Fitzpatrick, Dunlop, Copland, Richardson, Stark, Bone, Ambercrombie, McGarvey.

MORTON (0) 0 ABERDEEN (1) 1 (Cooper)

Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, Thomson, McNeill, Miller, Hutchison, Tormie, Ritchie.

Aberdeen: Gardner; Kennedy, McLelland, Cooper, McLeish, Miller, McGhee, Archibald, Harper, Jarvie, Strachan.

MOTHERWELL (1) 3 (Clinging, Stevens, Larnach)

Celtic (3) 4 (McGrain 2, Doyle, Lennox pen.)

Motherwell: Rennie; McLeod, Wark, Carberry, Dempsey, Stevens, Smith, Pettigrew, Clinging, Irvine, Donnelly (Larnach).

Celtic: Bonnar; McGrain, McLeod, Aitken, Edvaldsson, Conroy, Provan, Lennox, Davidson, Burns, Doyle.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

THIRD DIVISION

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Lee) TRANMERE (0) 0

Colchester: Walker; Cook, Wright, Hodge, Wignall, Packer, Foley, Gough, Dyer, Lee, Allinson.

Tranmere: Johnson; Flood, Mathias, Parry, Postlewhite, Evans, O'Neill, Bramhall, Kerr, Thomas, McAuley.

SOUTHEND (0) 0 EXETER (0) 1 (Neville pen.)

Southend: Cawston; Dudley, Yates, Stead, Cusack, Hadley, Morris, Polycarpou, Parker, Pountney, Otulakowski.

Exeter: Main; Templeman, Hore, Randall, Giles, Roberts, Neville, Rogers, Sims, Delve, Hatch.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

FIRST DIVISION

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 (Barrowclough 2, 1 pen.) SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Baker, Hayes)

Birmingham: Freeman; Page, Dennis, Broadhurst, Gallagher, Tarantini, Ainscow, Calderwood, Givens, Dillon (Dark), Barrowclough.

Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Andruszewski, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hayes, Holmes, Baker.

BOLTON (1) 2 (Worthington, Gowling) Q.P.R. (1) 1 (Goddard)

Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson (McNab), Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Walsh, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowling, Worthington, Smith.

Q.P.R.: Richardson; Clement, Wallace, Hollins, Howe, Roeder, McGee, Francis, Walsh, Busby, Goddard.

CHELSEA (0) 1 (Wilkins, R.) NOTTM. FOREST (2) 3 (Francis, O'Neill, Bowyer)

Chelsea: Borota; Wilkins (G), Stride, Bannon, Droy, Nutton, Harris, Wilkins (R), Aylott, Langley, Frost (Stanley).

Nottm. F.: Shilton; Anderson, Gunn, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, O'Neill, Gemmill (O'Hare), Francis, Bowyer, Robertson.

COVENTRY (1) 1 (Hutchison) ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Deehan)

Coventry: Sealey; Roberts, McDonald, Yorath, Holton, Coop, Nardiello, Wallace, Hunt, Powell, Hutchison.

Villa: Rimmer; Gidman, Gregory, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Cowans, Little, Deehan, Cropley, Swain.

DERBY (0) 0 BRISTOL C. (0) 1 (Ritchie)

Derby: Middleton; Langan, Buckley, Daly (Caskey), Webb, Wicks, Carter, Powell, Greenwood, Moreland, Crawford.

Bristol C.: Shaw; Sweeney, Cooper, Gow, Rodgers, Hunter, Mann, Ritchie, Royle, Mabbutt (Whitehead), Meyer.



Sunderland's Wilf Rostron helped his club to a 0-0 draw at Bristol Rovers.

LEEDS (1) 1 (Cherry) IPSWICH (1) 1 (Gates)

Leeds: Harvey; Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Gray (E), Hankin, Hawley, Currie (Hird), Graham.

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhren, Geddis, Gates, Woods.

LIVERPOOL (0) 3 (Case, Dalglish, McDermott) ARSENAL (0) 0

Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Walford, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Gattin, Sunderland, Stapleton (Brignall), Price, Rix.

MAN. CITY (1) 3 (Channon, Palmer, Silkman) WOLVES (0) 1 (Hibbitt)

Man. C.: Corrigan; Reid, Donachie, Henry, Booth, Fitcher (P), Channon (Fitcher, R.), Owen, Silkman, Hartford, Palmer.

Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Rafferty, Richards, Carr.

NORWICH (0) 2 (Paddon, Robson) MAN. UTD. (0) 2 (McQueen, Macari)

Norwich: Hansbury; Bond, Davies, McGuire, Hoadley, Powell, Neighbour (Symonds), Reeves, Robson, Paddon, Peters.

Man. U.: Bailey; Albiston, Houston, McIlroy, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Greenhoff (J), Jordan, Macari, Thomas.

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Taylor pen.) MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 (Proctor, Ashcroft)

Tottenham: Kendall; Naylor, McAlister, Holmes, Pratt, Perryman, Ardiles, Taylor, Jones, Hoddle, Villa.

Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Johnson, Mahoney, Boam, McAndrew, Hodgson, Proctor, Ashcroft, Burns, Armstrong.

W.B.A. (0) 1 (Brown, A) EVERTON (0) 0

W.B.A.: Godden; Bennett, Statham, Treweek, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown (A), Regis, Mills, Cunningham.

Everton: Wood; Barton, Jones, Lyons, Todd, Ross, King, Dobson, Latchford, Kidd, Thomas (Eastoe).

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKBURN (0) 2 (Aston, Craig) SHEFF. UTD. (0) 0

Blackburn: Ramsbottom; Rathbone, Bailey, Coughlin, Parkin, Fazackerley, Round (Aston), Fowler, Craig, Garner, McKenzie.

Sheff. U.: Conroy; Cutbush, Tibbott, Kenworthy, McPhail, Rioch (Brown), Speight, Anderson, Finnieston, Sabella, Hamson.

BRISTOL R. 0 SUNDERLAND 0

Bristol R.: Thomas; Jones, Bater, Aitken, Taylor, Emmanuel, Dennehy, Williams, White, Hendrie, Staniforth.

Sunderland: Siddall; Whitworth, Gilbert, Docherty, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, Buckley, Entwistle (Brown), Lee, Rostron.

CAMBRIDGE 0 WEST HAM 0

Cambridge: Webster; Graham, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, Murray, Christie, Spriggs, Buckley, Finney, Biley.

West Ham: Parkes; Lampard (Pike), Brush, McDowell, Taylor (T), Martin, Holland, Devonshire, Cross, Bonds, Robson.

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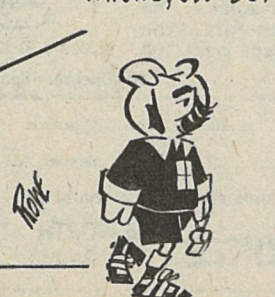
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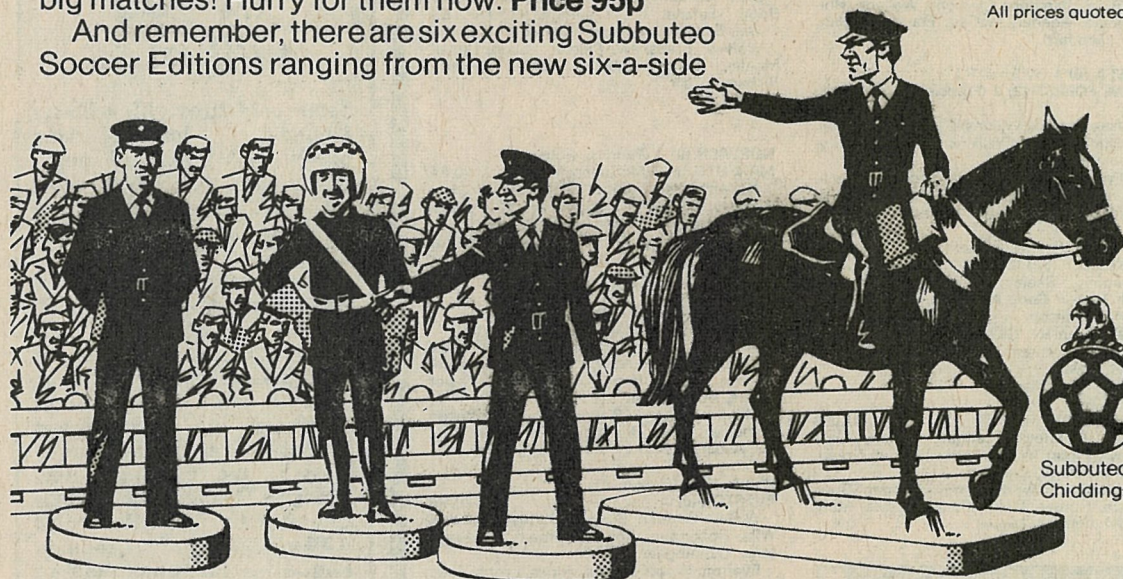
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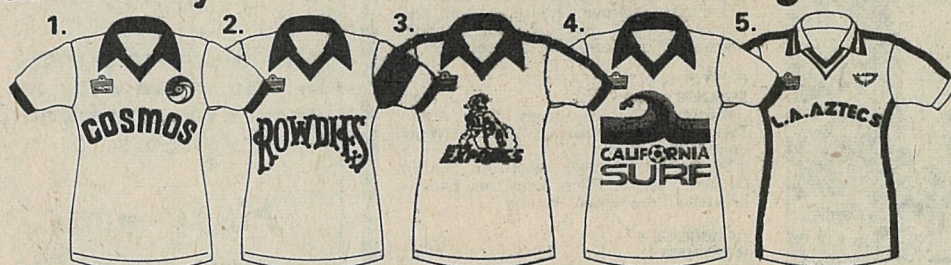


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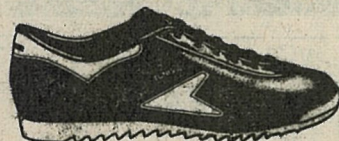
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CAN anyone beat Mick Mills' record of consistency?

It's a fact that in ten years as a First Division player the Ipswich and England defender has missed only 29 League games.

And when you consider he has also undergone two cartilage operations in that time you get an idea of how valuable a servant Mick has been to the Suffolk club.

He has just completed yet another 100 per cent season, his sixth since Ipswich came back into the First Division in season 1968-69 at a time when the 30-year-old former Portsmouth youth player was by no means a regular.

"The season had been going for a few weeks and results weren't all that good," he recalls. "I got my chance and was lucky enough to stay in the side for a run of 35 games at a time when we were

Why play-anywhere MICK MILLS is worth his weight in gold...

really quite happy just to avoid relegation.

"European football and chasing the title were just a dream at that time but gradually we began to get things right. One or two short-term signings like Jimmy Robertson and Frank Clark got us through a difficult period and then we began to introduce our own youngsters.

"Lads like Clive Woods, Trevor Whymark and Mick Lambert were beginning to establish themselves in the side and we were on the right road. Gradually players like George Burley and Kevin Beattie fought their way into the side and behind them there was a queue of good youngsters waiting for their big chance."

Mick was an ever-present for four successive seasons between 1972 and 1976 and his success at club level has launched him on an international career that had seen him capped at youth, Under-23 and full levels for England.

He had won 22 caps before the start of the British Championship and the highlight of his career came last year when Ron Greenwood chose him to skipper the side against Wales just seven days after leading Ipswich to F.A. Cup glory at Wembley.

Play-anywhere Mick is worth his weight in gold to the Suffolk club. He has turned out in both full-back positions and can operate in mid-field to such effect he has also represented England in that role.

Only once did Mick think seriously about moving from Portman Road. That was when Manchester United offered in the region of £200,000 for him and Ipswich reluctantly agreed to sell.



Manager Bobby Robson (left), David Geddis, Mick Mills and coach Cyril Lea with the F.A. Cup



Mick Mills (number two) pointing the way with England boss Ron Greenwood (left) and Trevor Brooking.

But finding a replacement for Mick turned out to be an impossible task and after a chat with Ipswich boss Bobby Robson he agreed to stay on. And in the years to follow United hit a decline as Town joined the Championship chasers.

"Looking back I've got no regrets," says Mick. "The chance to join United came after we had been fighting for four years to stay in the First Division at Ipswich and I felt my career would benefit if I moved on.

"When the move was called off the disappointment didn't last long. I soon realised Ipswich were progressing along the right lines and I could see that within a couple of years we would have a side capable of competing with the best."

Mick is now way out in front as the holder of the club's appearances record. When Ipswich wrapped up their season on Cup Final eve at Queens Park Rangers it was their skipper's 572nd game in the club colours, a total which includes the F.A. Cup, League Cup, Texaco Cup, U.E.F.A. Cup and European Cup-Winners' Cup.

He still has five years of his Ipswich contract to run and is quite confident he will see it through. Then he plans to concentrate on staying in the game with a view to becoming a manager.

'Born Leader'

One person in no doubt he can achieve his goal is his current boss, Bobby Robson. He says: "Mick has all the qualities needed to be a manager. He's a born leader and organiser and in all the time I have known him I have always found him to be dependable."

Mick's great friendship with his former Ipswich team-mate Bryan Hamilton, now at Swindon, could lead to a managerial double act in the years to come. But for the time being he plans to concentrate on playing.

"I've still got a lot of games left in me," he smiles, "and one or two ambitions remain unfulfilled. Like leading Ipswich to the Championship or success in one of the European competitions.

"Looking ahead to next season I'm confident we can challenge for the title. We've had a few changes in personnel which took a while to get used to but things were looking good towards the end of last season and I'm hopeful we can pick up where we left off."

Here is Mick Mills' full League record for Ipswich, the club he joined in 1965 when Portsmouth scrapped their youth policy and gave him a free transfer:

Season	Div	Games	Goals
1965-66	2	2	—
1966-67	2	21	—
1967-68	2	9	—
1968-69	1	35	3
1969-70	1	40	3
1970-71	1	42	1
1971-72	1	35	1
1972-73	1	42	—
1973-74	1	42	2
1974-75	1	42	1
1975-76	1	42	1
1976-77	1	37	—
1977-78	1	34	6
1978-79	1	42	2



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FOCUS ON **MIKE THOMAS** Manchester Utd. and Wales

FULL NAME: Michael Thomas
BIRTHPLACE: Mochdre, Colwyn Bay
BIRTHDATE: 7th July, 1954
HEIGHT: 5ft 6ins
WEIGHT: 10st 4lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Wrexham
MARRIED: No, but I'm open to offers
CAR: Rover 2600
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Wrexham's Les Cartwright
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Wrexham and Mountain View (Mochdre)
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Arsenal's Pat Rice
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Being captain of the Welsh Under-21 team against Scotland
BIGGEST THRILL: Signing for Manchester United
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Every time we lose a match
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Germany
FAVOURITE FOOD: Cornflakes and steak
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Going for long walks along the beach at Colwyn Bay
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: People that moan
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Jim'll Fix It and any sports programmes
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart and Barry White
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood and Barbra Streisand
BEST FRIENDS: Joey Jones, John Lyons and Les Cartwright at Wrexham
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: John Neal, Mike Smith, my father and mother and Richard Dodd my PE teacher
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Hangers-on
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Youth, Under-21, Under-23 and full caps for Wales
PERSONAL AMBITION: To play in the First Division for the rest of my career
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: I achieved it this season helping United reach the F.A. Cup Final
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Very unhappy
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Television newsreader Anna Ford

Mike Thomas

Successful Saints

'A thrill to play at Wembley'

AUSTIN Hayes, the 20-year-old Southampton striker, who made his international debut for the Republic of Ireland against Denmark on May 2nd, originally signed schoolboy forms with Crystal Palace. But he was rejected; joined another Palace reject, England Under-21 starlet Steve Williams at Southampton and they have both taken the opportunity to prove that Palace made an expensive error of judgment.

Hayes had his first taste of the football highlights in Saints' 1977 European Cup-Winners' Cup campaign. He played against both Carrick Rangers and then Anderlecht, in the Quarter-Finals. This quickly led to a regular first team spot and things began to look really promising.

But midway through the 1977-78 season, he had a cartilage operation. "When I got back on my feet, there were only eight games left to the season so the boss fixed it up for me to play for Los Angeles Aztecs in California, to regain my fitness.

"America was great, really a fantastic place. It's not just playing football in the sun — I liked the way they presented football over there and they certainly know how to put on a show. When Americans go to a soccer game, they treat it as a day out and the people are so friendly. I am hoping to go back for several years in the summers."

Hayes has been lucky coming into the first team when Southampton were proving to be formidable opponents in the domestic Cup competitions. His selection for the League Cup Final against Nottingham Forest really delighted him. "I thought I had a chance of being picked for the Final and when the boss told me three days before the big event, I was thrilled. The feeling of actually going to Wembley was fantastic. On the day, I was nervous and when we went out to look at the pitch the sound of our fans and the atmosphere turned my legs to jelly. But as soon as we kicked-off, I was fine.

"On our first-half performance I thought we had a great chance of winning but Forest outplayed us after the break, and deserved to win. I was disappointed but we can't complain; the important thing is we were there."

Hayes, just 5 ft. 5½ ins. tall, has no doubts that Southampton's success is due to their manager Lawrie McMenemy. Equally, he had no doubts McMenemy would

THERE'S no doubt Lawrie McMenemy's Southampton have been one of the big successes of the season. Saints only got back into the First Division at the end of the last campaign, yet in 1978-79 they held a comfortable mid-table position for most of the time; played in the League Cup Final and very nearly won it — and were only denied a place in the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals by Arsenal's victory in a Quarter-Final replay.

It's been an interesting, successful year for everyone at The Dell but here, two stars tell you about their campaign. One, full-back DAVID PEACH, represents the more experienced players — the other, striker AUSTIN HAYES, represents the young brigade...

stay at The Dell when there was speculation that he might leave. "When I was in America, I heard the boss might go and the lads in the Aztec team gave me a bit of stick! But I knew he wouldn't ditch Southampton — he has worked hard to build up the side. All the lads have great respect for him and feel the sky is the limit while he is at the club."

Hayes, who despite his lack of height has proved his ability to use his pace and speed on the turn to give First Division defences a hard time, reckons Saints can only improve. "We now have the experience. We know what the standard is like, the team is settling down and in just one season, have done more than most sides in five.

"It's been a marvellous season, not only for me personally, but for Southampton, and we can go places from now on."

'I'm playing better than ever'

SOUTHAMPTON have arrived. Their F.A. and League Cup performances were no fluke. That's the opinion of David Peach their experienced left-back. "We proved we have the ability to hold our own in the First Division, although to be honest we more or less settled for a mid-Division position — our Cup run was a bonus this season.

"We were, of course, disappointed to lose the League Cup Final against Forest, but the defeat by Arsenal in the F.A. Cup replay was the one that really made us sick. After all, the F.A. Cup is the mecca of football, it has the tradition — it's the Cup which everyone talks about, and every club wants to win. For us, the whole season's work and effort was there for the taking in three days, and it disappeared just as quickly."

Peach, who signed for Saints six years ago from Gillingham, was unhappy with his form earlier in the season. "I had a rather dodgy start to the season, in and out of the side and I began to think I had been with the club too long. I felt at the crossroads of my career and that it might be best to move on.

But then my form improved and I decided to stay. Now, I'm really enjoying my game, and have put all the problems behind me — I'm playing better than ever."

Winning the F.A. Cup in 1976 against Manchester United put Saints on the road to success. "Before we won the Cup, the fans threw things at us, they hated the manager, then suddenly they were kissing his feet, and The Dell became a different place. Now they have more passion about them; they really set the place buzzing. I only hope they don't expect too much — after all they may start throwing things again! Seriously though the fans have done us proud. The Dell holds about 26,000 and our gates are around 20-22,000. It's a tight, compact ground and when our supporters get going its like playing to a full house at Anfield. Other clubs hate coming here."

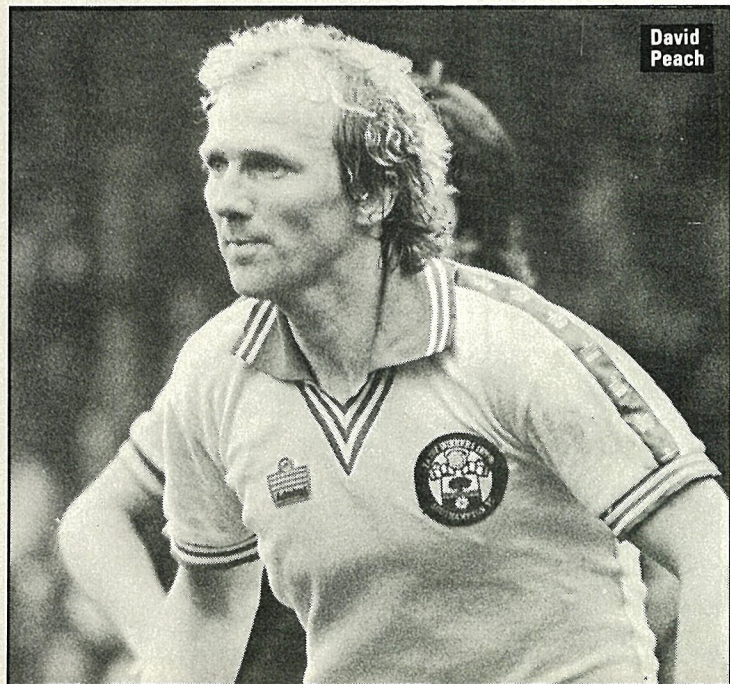
Alan Ball has played no small part in Saints' success story, and Peach has nothing but admiration for his approach to the game. "I hate to think of The Dell without him, he is a machine," says Peach. "He's an A1 grafter on the field and the reason for our success. A really great professional, I just cannot understand how Arsenal came to write him off; he is an inspiration to the whole team especially the youngsters."

David reckons the Southampton youth policy has little to prove as Saints' side is full of players promoted from the youth team. "But Saints fans will have to wait while the present youth side matures before they see new names on the Southampton soccer scene," he says.

Another reason for happy faces at The Dell is manager Lawrie McMenemy's decision to stay. David explains the players' feelings: "We hated the idea of him going, but just got on with the job of playing football. It was the only thing we could do."



Austin Hayes



David Peach

JUSTICE! That's my one word verdict on the news Kenny Dalglish is the English Football Writers' Association Player of the Year.

I just could not believe it when I heard my old Celtic team-mate had missed out on a nomination for the P.F.A. award.

Several newspapers down South speculated at the time that his exclusion from that honour was only because of the jealousy of fellow players that Liverpool seem to win everything else.

That to me, if true, is just incredible. Kenny (right) has been in tremendous form since he signed for the Reds from Parkhead and for once the football writers got it right where the players boobed.

And I'll tell you what, I'll make a long term prediction here and now and say he will win it again next time.

He will be even better then, because he will be over the language barrier!

Talking of Players of the Year, my congratulations to Andy Ritchie, one time Celt, now of Morton, who won the Scottish Football Writers' Association award which I had the honour to take a couple of years ago.

Fellow SHOOT correspondent Derek Johnstone was last year's winner and Dundee United centre-half Paul Hegarty, the Scottish Players' Player of the Year, was the runner-up this time.

Paul of course, like myself, has hopes of making the Scotland squad for the British Championship at the end of May.

Which brings me nicely to a letter I received from SHOOT reader Matthew Codd of Norwich.

Matthew's letter, despite its scathing attack on my opinions of the game, particularly intrigued me.

'Science fiction'

He writes: "May I suggest when the time comes to hang up your boots you take your talents not to the USA, but stay in Glasgow and turn your hand to writing science fiction novels?"

"I'm sure they would sell very well since you have a vivid imagination. It is quite understandable you would imagine Scottish fans are the best in the world."

He goes on to point out that in spite of my praise of the Scottish support when England face Scotland at Wembley and the remarkable absence of the English fans, his country have a marvellous following when they face the likes of even Denmark and Luxembourg.

And he explains the English supporters Wembley boycott routine is because of the fear his countrymen have of several thousand Scots in full flight.

Well, Matthew, let me say this. Like every other country or club in the world the Scottish national side has its nutcases in the following. That, sadly, is unavoidable in these strife torn times.

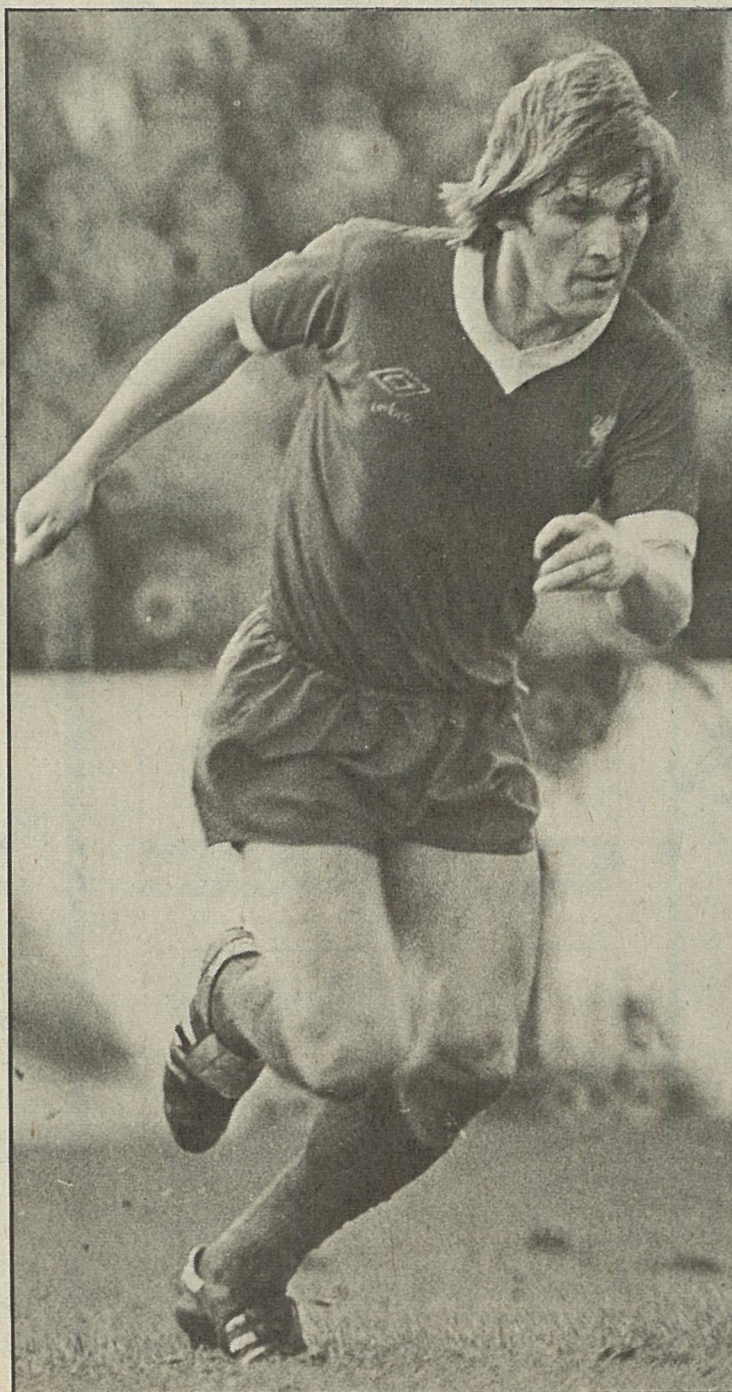
But the huge majority of the Tartan Army who travel to London for the Wembley weekend are there to enjoy themselves... in a civilised fashion.

It is a bi-annual pilgrimage to the big smoke for which they save hard just to be able to say in the best Max Boyce traditions: "I was

'Dalglish to be next season's star player, too'



Tartan Talk **DANNY McGRAIN**



there!"

They hate to lose of course — who doesn't — but being there is the thing. That was best proved after Scotland were thrashed 9-3 by England in the early Sixties. It did not stop thousands of loyal supporters making the return trip two years later.

I have been at three Wembleys and there is very little to match it for atmosphere. I suggest, Matthew, you and some of your fellow England fans try it some time!

Finally let me add my congratulations to the thousands already bestowed on Nottingham Forest for their achievement in reaching the European Cup Final.

I predicted they would make it against Cologne although I must confess to sweating when they could only manage a 3-3 draw in the first-leg in the Midlands.

But in West Germany Cologne played like a British team in action on the Continent, frustrated and scared to have a real go.

The Germans should have come out and played to their strength, which is attacking.

They are not a naturally defensive minded outfit like say an Italian club and it is always difficult to change your style for a one-off.

But Forest stepped in and all credit to them.

They must be favourites to defeat unknown Malmö in the Final and I am sure they will do so... but a word or two of warning for them which I am quite sure Brian Clough hardly needs.

Remember what happened to Celtic in their second European Cup Final against the then unknown Feyenoord from Holland when dreams of glory in Milan turned to absolute disaster.

Be warned Forest!

See you in two weeks.

Danny McGrain

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' DEREK JOHNSTONE

AFTER the disappointment of relegation with Chelsea, I've been looking forward to the British Championship because it is a chance to forget the worries of League football and play for England, which means so much to me.

Mind you, I'm taking nothing for granted. To be honest, if Tony Currie and Trevor Brooking are fit, I expect to be a substitute at the most. They played so well against Northern Ireland in February — a game I missed, recovering from injury — that Ron Greenwood may well decide to keep England's play-makers together again.

I admire both Tony and Trevor. West Ham badly missed Trevor during the final phase of the season and his absence was crucial in their promotion near-miss.

Even though Chelsea haven't been playing well, I've been happy with my own form; certainly much happier than I was in the first half of the season. It hasn't been easy, specially towards the end when there was nothing to fight for. I find I can motivate myself, though, whatever the circumstances, and if chosen for my country, there won't be any relegation hangover.

I have never claimed to be a regular or automatic choice for England. While I've played in most of the games over the past couple of seasons, I'm still finding my way at international level, although over the next 12 months I'm hoping to make my position more secure, naturally.

It's been said some of the England players have been having a bad time with their clubs, either with injuries or loss of form. Perhaps... but I wouldn't be surprised if the England manager remains loyal to those who have done so well for him. He tends to look at what the players do for England rather than their clubs.

The Nottingham Forest players must have mixed feelings. While being delighted at reaching the European Cup Final, at the same time they'll be very disappointed at missing the British Championship. Peter Shilton, Viv Anderson, Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock could all have made their mark... but a European Cup Winner's medal will be ample compensation, I'm sure!

All players look forward to the British Championship. It's a chance to play against team-mates and, in my case, my club manager, Danny Blanchflower, of Northern Ireland.

Obviously the England-Scotland clash is the big match; life can be unbearable if the Scots win, as every dressing-room has a few Jocks who delight in a daily reminder if England should lose. I'm glad I don't play for Leeds or Manchester United. They have more Scots than Englishmen, I think!

Northern Ireland are never easy to beat in Belfast and although we won there two years ago, it was a struggle. I have happy memories of the reception given to us by the soccer-loving fans of the City and there was not the slightest hint of trouble of any kind.



"We had to fight hard to beat Northern Ireland in Belfast two years ago."

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The Irish will be keen to avenge that 4-0 Wembley defeat, a night they didn't really play as well as they can, although I take nothing away from England. We have to play in Belfast in the European Championship — Northern Ireland are still in the hunt, too, so we can look forward to two closely-fought encounters there this year.

Wales come next and they will be eager to win after their 0-2 defeat by West Germany in Wrexham.

Wales have their best side for ages, with some good young players making their presence felt alongside established favourites. I particularly like Carl Harris, the Leeds United winger, who had an outstanding game against us last year.

George Berry, their latest star,

**RAY
WILKINS**
Writes for you

"Wales winger Carl Harris had a good game against us in Cardiff last year."



and we were certainly geed up for the game at Hampden last May. They dominated us for long periods, yet we won and in such games, that is all that matters.

In 1977, Scotland played extremely well winning 2-1 at Wembley, with Gordon McQueen heading a powerful goal and Kenny Dalglish netting their second. I think the Scots like playing England more at Wembley than at Hampden. Their fans enjoy their trips to Wembley,

so much that last time they took half the pitch back to Glasgow. I hope there is no repeat of this ridiculous behaviour, which spoilt a great occasion in 1977.

Ron Greenwood will be looking for a continuation of all the good things seen in our recent games. After the British Championship comes the most vital game of the summer — Bulgaria in Sofia, so the England manager will no doubt be planning with that tie in mind.

That is a match I'll be writing about in more depth in my next column. In the meantime, I'm keeping my fingers crossed I play in the domestic competition.

Kevin Keegan won't be able to play against Northern Ireland, but nobody doubts he'll automatically be included when available.

'Building up for Bulgaria'

looked a solid defender for Wolves at Stamford Bridge not too long ago and he'll be out to do well for his adopted country.

Wales have always been hard nuts to crack and, of course, they won

on their last visit to Wembley in 1977 by 1-0.

Then . . . Scotland. While it's true to say this game means more to Scotland than England (they'd sooner beat us than win the World Cup!) I must confess I don't like to lose to them.

Perhaps the attitude of the Scots has hardened that of the English



I also believe we may see one or two new faces in the England set-up. The competition for places is getting tougher all the time, especially in midfield, with Tony Currie, Trevor Brooking, Kevin Keegan, Steve Coppell and myself all pushing for places.

See you again in two weeks.

Ray Wilkins

THE cream of Scotland's footballing pride are preparing again for another trip to Wembley and another clash of the titans against England. Before that, of course, they have the British Championship matches against Wales and Northern Ireland.

Obviously there is a lot to play and fight for. Players are forming queues to get into Jock Stein's international plans, but there must be some forgotten stars who will surely wonder if it is all worth it.

Life at the top can be cruel. Mistakes in the international arena are not easily forgotten and some players have never recovered.

Take, for instance, that momentous World Cup qualifying match against Czechoslovakia at Hampden not even six years ago. Scotland had to win to reach the Finals after 16 years in the wilderness.

They gave the superbly drilled and supremely talented Czechs a goal start and came roaring back to beat them 2-1 with goals from Jim Holton and Joe Jordan.

Let's, however, run through that team that brought glory and restored so much pride for Scotland. It was: Ally Hunter; Sandy Jardine, Holton, George Connelly and Danny McGrain; Billy Bremner, Davie Hay, Kenny Dalglish; Willie Morgan, Denis Law and Tommy Hutchison. Sub: Jordan.

Squirmed

Goalkeeper Hunter was blamed for Czechoslovakia's goal that evening when a long shot from Nehoda dipped and squirmed under his body. His former Celtic boss and current international supremo Jock Stein admitted frankly: "I don't think he ever recovered from conceding that goal."

His form dipped alarmingly and he lost his first team place at Parkhead, missed out on the chance to win a Scottish Cup medal, failed to make the trip to West Germany for the Finals with his place going to Kilmarnock's Jim Stewart (now Middlesbrough) and was eventually allowed to join Motherwell.

The tale of woe did not end there, unfortunately for Hunter. Motherwell freed him and he joined St. Mirren, who also gave him a free transfer. Hunter was so sick and tired at the way things had turned out that he walked out on the game and quit at 27.

He played twice for Clydebank this season, but he stressed: "There is no way I am making a comeback. I'm a friend of Bankies manager Bill Munro and I'm helping him out on a strictly temporary basis. I've no intention whatsoever of becoming a footballer again."

Hunter now owns a grocer's shop in Clydebank and most of the football action he sees today is in the safety of his own living room on the television.

And what about George Connelly, the man who was tipped to become Scotland's answer to the incredibly talented Franz Beckenbauer?

He, too, has decided to turn his back on the game that would have given a lucrative living and certain superstar status. Connelly was blessed with finely-honed skills and his every movement had class stamped on it.

How hard it is to believe that Connelly, only 26 at the time,

decided he couldn't live with the strain of being a top class footballer and, after a series of vanishing acts, he made his mind up not to play again.

Connelly did try to make a comeback with Falkirk, but it didn't last long. He had lost his interest in the game and, like his former Celtic team-mate Hunter, didn't want to know about a serious return to football.

Davie Hay was Connelly's best friend at Parkhead, but when Celtic sold Hay to Chelsea for £240,000 shortly after the World Cup Finals in '74, Connelly's career, unknown to everyone at the time, was also coming to an end.

Poor Davie Hay has been bedevilled by injuries and eye trouble since his move to London. He was the powerhouse of the Scot-

was one of the huge successes of the '74 World Cup. That fact alone must have made it even more difficult for the former Leeds firebrand to accept that his days of captaining his country were over.

Jim Holton, too, hasn't enjoyed the best luck since that match against the Czechs. The former Manchester United giant was a great favourite with the Scots fans, but unless he stages a remarkable comeback his international days came to an end when he broke a leg in a friendly against East Germany at Hampden.

His place at Old Trafford was taken by Brian Greenhoff as ex-boss Tommy Docherty changed his tactical set-up and Holton was soon on his way to Sunderland where very little went right and

now, of course, he is with Coventry City although rumours persist he will shortly also be on the move from Highfield Road.

Tommy Hutchison, Holton's fellow-Scot at Coventry, also saw his international years coming to an end while playing at Hampden.

It was Scotland's first match since returning from West Germany and they were due to play Spain in a crucial European Championship match in Glasgow on a bitterly cold November evening.

Bremner snapped up a fumble by goalkeeper Jose Iribar to put Scotland into an early lead and shortly after this the referee awarded the Scots a penalty for handball. It looked like the ideal opportunity to kill off Spain's hopes then and there.



VICTIMS OF THE

tish international team and many critics saw him as the ideal replacement as skipper and mid-field dynamo after Billy Bremner had been sensationally banned several years ago following the now infamous Copenhagen nightclub incident.

Hay's career is now in jeopardy. The jinx that has haunted that Scottish team seems to have settled on him, too, trying to extinguish his fire and drive. We can only hope he retains his will-to-win and determination to recover from the series of blows that have come his way.

And talking about Bremner brings us to the inglorious end to his international career. Bremner, then the Scottish captain, Pat McCluskey, Willie Young, Joe Harper and Arthur Graham were all banned by the SFA after a rum-pus following a European Championship match against Denmark five years ago.

Harper scored the only goal of that game and was then told: "Your Scottish career is finished." Thankfully, the suspension was lifted eventually, but by that time it was too late for Bremner to play again for his country.

Bremner had typified the Scottish spirit with his courageous displays and there is little doubt he



Hutchison stepped up to take the kick, but he didn't strike the ball cleanly and Iribar flopped on his effort. That miss gave Spain heart and they eventually won 2-1. Hutchison played as substitute in the return-leg and then his career was over.

He had made his big-time debut against Czechoslovakia in the 2-1 triumph and was declared a hero, but the hoodoo was to catch up with him eventually.

The other winger that night of nights against the Czechs was Willie Morgan. His World Cup Finals were hardly inspiring. He said then: "People keep asking me why I am left out of the side. I tell them I don't know."

It did seem strange that a winger of the undoubted class of Morgan, who missed the match against

Zaire, was not brought more into Willie Ormond's plans. He had the devastating acceleration and pinpoint accuracy required to ruin defences, but Morgan hardly got the service he would have thrived on.

His days, too, came to an end shortly after returning to a hero's welcome from Germany. Denis Law, whose one and only game in the World Cup Finals was against Zaire, knew he, too, was drifting into international oblivion. He retired before it overtook him.

Sandy Jardine and Danny McGrain were the full-backs against Czechoslovakia and the jinx hasn't missed them either. Jardine was hit by injury and loss of form and became a forgotten man as McGrain reverted to the right-back spot allowing Willie Donachie to come into the number three shirt.

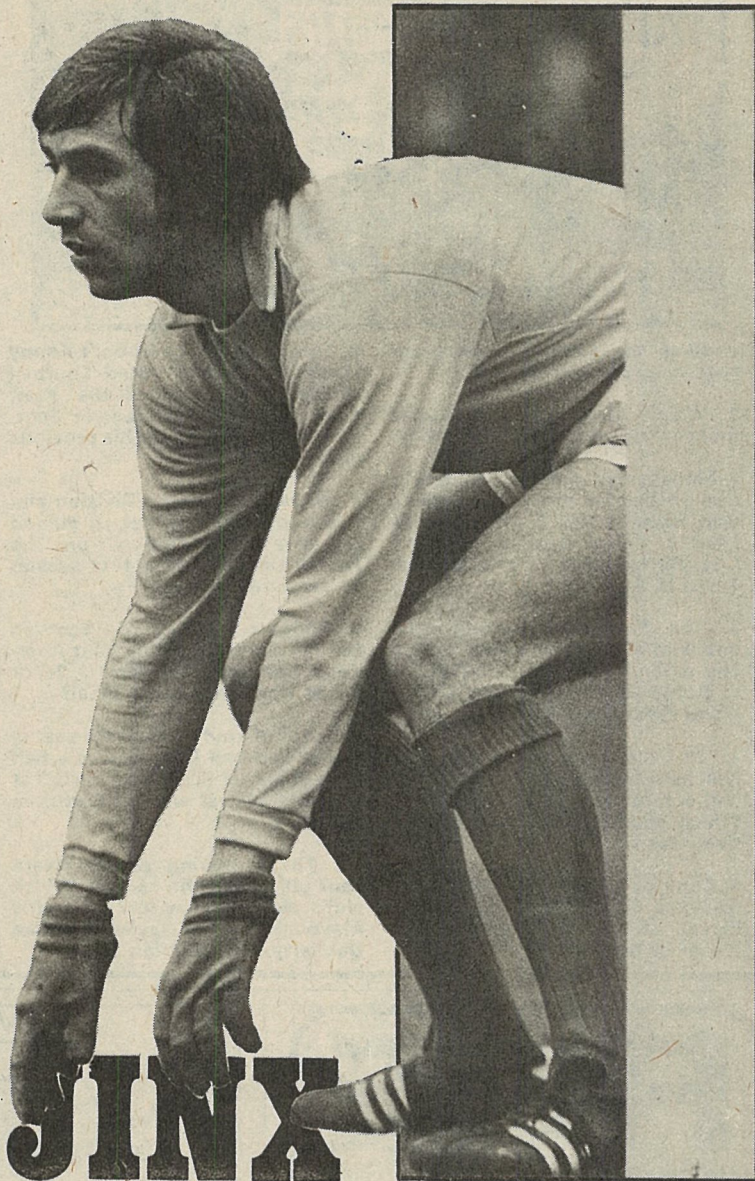
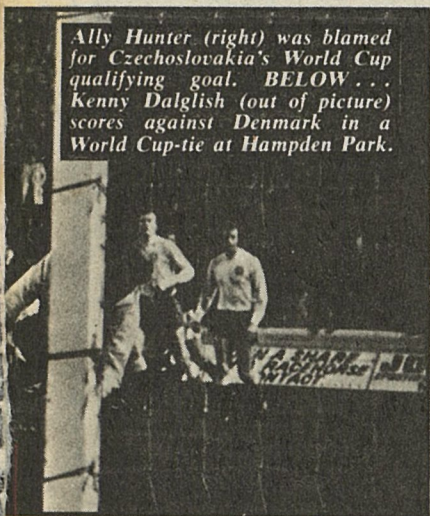
Jardine made the trip to Argentina, but played in only one game — against Iran in the shambling 1-1 draw. Aberdeen's Stuart Kennedy played in the matches against Peru and Holland.

And McGrain, of course, was cut down cruelly by injury and was out of the game for more than a year, forcing him to watch the World Cup on television while Scotland required his services in South America.

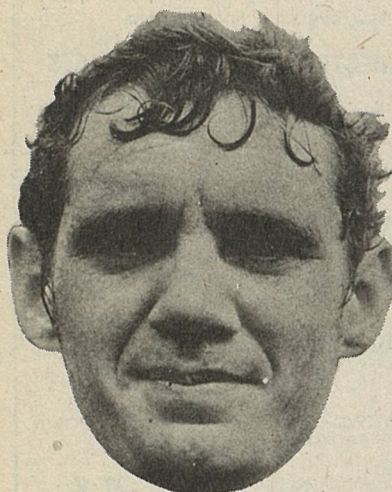
Thankfully, both Jardine and McGrain are both fighting fit. The Rangers star has had a consistent season while McGrain is beginning to look like his old self again.

That leaves Kenny Dalglish and Joe Jordan. The Liverpool star and English Footballer of the Year has

Ally Hunter (right) was blamed for Czechoslovakia's World Cup qualifying goal. BELOW... Kenny Dalglish (out of picture) scores against Denmark in a World Cup-tie at Hampden Park.



SCOTLAND JINX



Injuries and eye trouble have dogged Davie Hay (left) since his transfer to Chelsea in 1974. George Connelly (above) first quit when he was only 26. Jim Holton (right) suffered a broken leg against East Germany, his last international game.



gone from strength to strength although he baffled his supporters with lacklustre displays in Argentina. He finally overtook Denis Law's total of full Scottish caps in the match against Iran and marked the occasion by being substituted!

Still, Dalglish is a player of genuine quality and it is worth remembering he has scored more goals than any other Scots international playing today. Tommy Docherty, Willie Ormond, Ally MacLeod and Jock Stein have all selected him for international duty and that statistic alone surely proves his consistency.

Ironically, he was also substituted against Czechoslovakia and the man who came on for him was, of course, Jordan, who launched himself into the history books with a wonderful diving header to beat 'keeper Ivo Viktor for the winning goal that night.

Like Dalglish, Jordan has his critics, but he has always given 100 per cent effort and his courage is an unsettling factor for rivals who are unable to forget he is on that field!

That, then, is international life

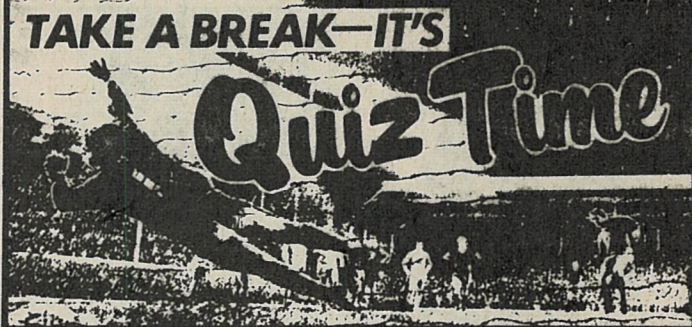
for the men who combined to bring Scotland out of the wilderness in '73. Even manager Willie Ormond hasn't escaped the hoodoo. He left to take over Hearts, who were relegated from the Premier Division in his first season as Tynecastle boss. He took them up in 1977-78 but they will be back in the First Division again next term.

Undoubtedly there will be players with stars in their eyes as they get ready to pull on the dark blue shirt against Wales, Northern Ireland and England. They are ready to give their all to prove they have what it takes at the highest level.

Some will make it... others will not. There are many dreams buried in the international graveyard; stardom is not achieved without heartbreak.

Only the brave will survive. We wish everyone the best of luck. They know the penalty of failure and they know the glory of victory. The spectre that has haunted certain individuals in recent years may be ready to strike again with its fearsome consequences.

Only time will tell.



Answer the following questions regarding season 1978-79.

1. Which Arsenal striker missed most of the season through injury?
2. Manchester United discovered a fine goalkeeper prospect in young Gary Bailey (right). Did he make his League debut against Norwich City, Birmingham City or Ipswich Town in August?
3. The European Championship hopes of Wales took a dive on May 2nd when they lost 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0 at home to former World Champions West Germany?
4. On the same evening both Northern Ireland and the Republic had comfortable Group One wins. Which countries did they respectively beat?
5. Can you name the 1978-79 Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year?

6. True or false? Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish, recently voted Football Writers' Footballer of the Year, also won the equivalent in Scotland while playing for his previous club Celtic.

7. Which former First Division and international striker, guided Barnsley to promotion from the Fourth Division in his first season as player-manager?

8. Rangers retained the Scottish League Cup when they beat Aberdeen, Celtic or Hibernian 1-0, 2-1 or 3-2 at Hampden in the Final?

9. Nottingham Forest did the same in the Football League Cup when they defeated Southampton 3-2 at Wembley. What was the half-time score?

10. The following players were sent off during the season. Which clubs did they play for? (a) Teddy Maybank, (b) Dai Davies, (c) Mike Docherty and (d) Allan Evans.



11. Who did Sunderland appoint as caretaker-manager early in the campaign?

12. Name the striker who broke

the goalscoring record of Fourth Division Aldershot?

13. Kevin Keegan was named European Footballer of the Year. He became the first British player to win the award since Bobby Charlton, Denis Law or George Best won it in 1968?

14. How many British clubs were left in the three European Cup competitions at the Quarter-Finals stage?

15. Which clubs were knocked out in the Semi-Finals of the F.A. Cup and Scottish Cup?

ANSWERS

1. Malcolm Macdonald, 2. Ipswich, 3. Wolves and Aberdeen, 4. Five, 5. Wolves and John Duggan, 6. George Best, 7. Billy Elliott, 8. Aston Villa, 9. Billy Elliott, 10. Wrexham, 11. Sunderland, 12. Wrexham, 13. Brighton, 14. Aberdeen, 15. 1-0 to South, 16. 2-1, 17. Allan Clarke, 18. didn't win the award, 19. North and Cyril Regis, 20. False - he and Denmark, 21. Liam Brady and Denmark, 22. 5, 23. Bulgaria, 24. 3, 25. 4, 26. 1, 27. 2, 28. 3, 29. 4, 30. 5, 31. 6, 32. 7, 33. 8, 34. 9, 35. 10, 36. 11, 37. 12, 38. 13, 39. 14, 40. 15, 41. 16, 42. 17, 43. 18, 44. 19, 45. 20, 46. 21, 47. 22, 48. 23, 49. 24, 50. 25, 51. 26, 52. 27, 53. 28, 54. 29, 55. 30, 56. 31, 57. 32, 58. 33, 59. 34, 60. 35, 61. 36, 62. 37, 63. 38, 64. 39, 65. 40, 66. 41, 67. 42, 68. 43, 69. 44, 70. 45, 71. 46, 72. 47, 73. 48, 74. 49, 75. 50, 76. 51, 77. 52, 78. 53, 79. 54, 80. 55, 81. 56, 82. 57, 83. 58, 84. 59, 85. 60, 86. 61, 87. 62, 88. 63, 89. 64, 90. 65, 91. 66, 92. 67, 93. 68, 94. 69, 95. 70, 96. 71, 97. 72, 98. 73, 99. 74, 100. 75, 101. 76, 102. 77, 103. 78, 104. 79, 105. 80, 106. 81, 107. 82, 108. 83, 109. 84, 110. 85, 111. 86, 112. 87, 113. 88, 114. 89, 115. 90, 116. 91, 117. 92, 118. 93, 119. 94, 120. 95, 121. 96, 122. 97, 123. 98, 124. 99, 125. 100, 126. 101, 127. 102, 128. 103, 129. 104, 130. 105, 131. 106, 132. 107, 133. 108, 134. 109, 135. 110, 136. 111, 137. 112, 138. 113, 139. 114, 140. 115, 141. 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1094, 1120. 1095, 1121. 1096, 1122. 1097, 1123. 1098, 1124. 1099, 1125. 1100, 1126. 1101, 1127. 1102, 112

EVEN the most optimistic Bolton fans did not fancy the club's chances against Manchester United at Burnden Park three days before Christmas, 1978.

Bolton were lying fourth from bottom of the First Division and had won only five of their first 20 matches.

Manchester United were sixth from top of the table, unbeaten in seven of their ten away games.

So, the local contingent in the 34,000 crowd that filed through the turnstiles at Bolton on Friday, December 22nd were no match for the jubilant "Red Army" in the customary exchange of rallying songs and unpleasantries between rival fans before the game.

Ninety minutes later, the "impossible" had happened. United's faithful following had been reduced to silence, their faces

"Frank Worthington started to score goals with regularity and the understanding he struck up with Alan Gowling became one of the season's success stories."

Other factors contributed to Bolton's new lease of life, notably the form of their veteran left-back Tony Dunne, the Dublin born former Manchester United star.

"His form had a major bearing on our performances after Christmas," Morgan explains. "He is a top class player still. It saddens me that when players are transferred from Manchester United they are written-off as dead. It happened to me, it happened to Tony."

"Both of us, I believe, are playing as well as ever. I felt I had a super season. I would like to have won

don't take a leaf out of Liverpool's book. They prove over and over again football is a simple game, not to be complicated by over-coaching."

Morgan believes Bolton as much as other First Division teams are suffering from a shortage of talent and personalities.

"I don't think it's a sign of old age to say characters like Denis Law are not in abundance today. Just take that United side Law played with — Stepney, Stiles, Crerand, Foulkes, Best, Charlton, what a team of talent and personality."

"Spurs were the same in the early 1960s with Bobby Smith,

for Burnley in 1963, is confident that in Ian Greaves, Bolton have one of the shrewdest managers in the game.

He claims Greaves bears many of the qualities possessed by Sir Matt Busby and if anyone is capable of building a side to compete with the elite in the top Division it is the former Huddersfield manager.

"He has been an inspiration here this season," admits Morgan. "Ian is straight, good to work with, and he has some of Matt Busby's qualities."

"He treats players as adults,

BOLTON ARE BACK IN BUSINESS

as red as their scarves. For Bolton had produced a major upset to win the League game 3-0 with goals from their formidable striking double act of Frank Worthington and Alan Gowling. Former England striker Worthington scored twice and Gowling, a former Manchester United player, scored once.

A fine result for Bolton by any standards but many observers at Burnden Park that day believe victory represented a significant turning point in the club's fortunes in 1978-79.

When the season ended earlier this month, Bolton had climbed well clear of the relegation zone and had given their supporters real hope of a continued revival in 1979-80.

Willie Morgan, Bolton's former Scotland winger, is among those who traces the Bolton rejuvenation back to the match against Manchester United, his former club.

"We started the season badly. Then came a terrible run of injuries. Sam Allardyce, Paul Jones, Tony Dunne and Peter Reid have all missed a lot of games with injury, and poor Peter Reid has been out for most of the season with tendon trouble."

"Their withdrawal affected everything and the whole world seemed to be against us. Then came the game against United. Our win seemed to have a magical effect on the team. We suddenly believed in ourselves."

"A lot had wondered whether they were good enough for the First Division. This game proved we could hold our own with anyone."

"Just take the case of Peter Nicholson. It was no secret the boss (Ian Greaves) wondered whether he would be a good enough defender to cope with some of the First Division's star wingers. The boss was thinking in terms of buying in that department."

"What happened. Peter defied his critics and is a first rate defender now worthy of a place in most teams."



Willie Morgan (white shirt) in action against Peter Johnson of Middlesbrough.

something, but am happy with the way things went."

Morgan is concerned about the First Division becoming a "them" "us" League. He warns the standard of football has diminished in some quarters.

"Don't get me wrong, the competitiveness is still there, and in Liverpool, Leeds, Nottingham Forest and West Bromwich Albion you have teams as good as any I have seen in the First Division since I started with Burnley in the early 1960s."

"But in mid-table and in the lower placings, the teams are not as good as they were. You can almost put money on which sides will do well next season. There are outstanding teams, and some pretty ordinary performers."

"Liverpool are playing the way they always have done. They have a system and stick to it. When they buy players the newcomers have to become part of their system. Other clubs fit systems round players."

"It amazes me that other clubs

Danny Blanchflower, Dave Mackay, Cliff Jones and Jimmy Greaves."

"The coaches have taken over. They stifle talent in schools and players are coming off a conveyor belt with little regard for individual qualities. It's all pressure training."

"One of the problems Bolton face, and clubs like us, is we cannot always lure outstanding talent into the game. If you have a choice between going to Manchester United or Bolton, a youngster will always go for United."

But Bolton have creamed-off some of the Northern talent. Two youngsters making rapid strides through their youth and reserve teams are Chris Thompson, a striker who can also play in mid-field, and Mick Carter, another striker.

"One of the troubles we find at Bolton is players flatter to deceive. A junior can look brilliant and then fade away when he's given his chance in the first team. There's a lot of trial and error."

But the former England winger, who first played League football

gives them responsibility, and they respond. Yes, he gets depressed like the rest of us if results go against Bolton. I've seen him in a mood where he could kick down doors, but then it takes a pretty special man not to show the pressures managers face today.

"The trouble is we can't compete in the big money transfer deals. We spent over £200,000 on Neil McNab but could never have put in a bid for Trevor Francis."

"Unless something is done about spiralling transfers, the game will kill itself. Clubs like ours must proceed very cautiously to survive."

"But we're not too pessimistic here at Burnden. There's no shortage of motivation. Many players get out of the game early because the game is no longer a challenge. Tony Dunne and I love every minute of the action."

Morgan is realistic enough to accept that Bolton are unlikely to win the First Division Championship next season ("not through lack of effort though") but believes the key to their prosperity could come in the various Cup competitions.

"That's when you all compete on level terms over 90 minutes and the best team on the day generally wins."

Morgan prefers not to put a deadline on his future in the game, but wishes fervently that he was starting again.

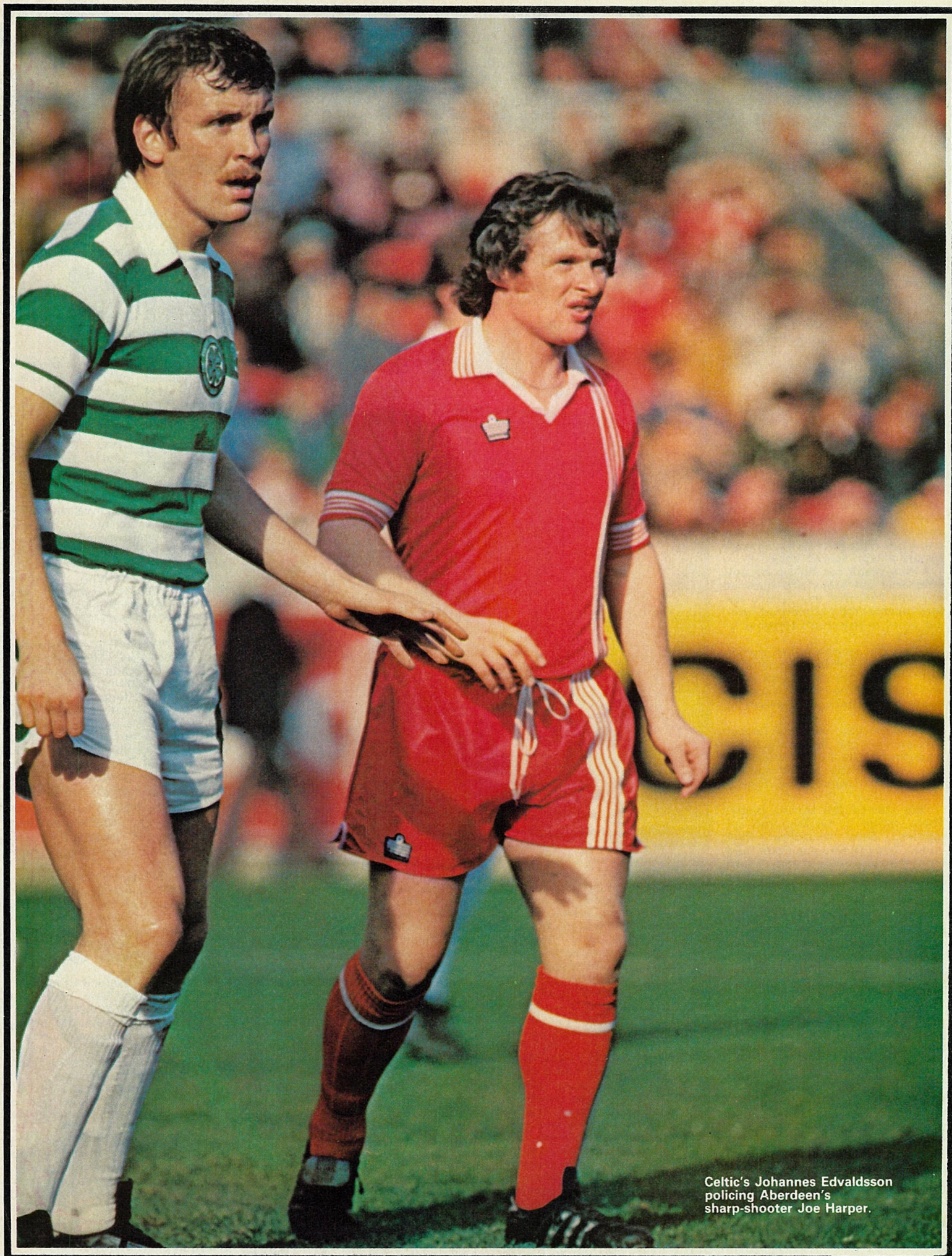
"I got £8 at the end of my first week at Burnley. Now players of 20 are on £10,000-£20,000 a year."

He hopes to retain his cutting edge for next season by playing in the North American Soccer League for Minnesota Kicks this summer.

"If I'm honest I can say I prefer my football more in the States. There are none of the pressures you face in trying to survive in the First Division."

"The weather is lovely, and the marking isn't so tight, giving you a chance to knock the ball around more. In England it's all graft, blood and thunder, and at the end of a season like we had at Bolton you need a long, long rest."

"But watch Bolton next season. We've learned a lot."



Celtic's Johannes Edvaldsson
policing Aberdeen's
sharp-shooter Joe Harper.

SHOOT!